

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Thursday, August 6, 2020

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

9:30 a.m.



Meeting Minutes

The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. by Chair David Murphy.

Roll Call

The roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those members in attendance included Rick Burris with the Lee County Department of Community Development; David Murphy with the Lee County Department of Transportation; Tyler Brown with the Lee County Port Authority; Dawn Huff and Carlos Menjivar with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the Cape Coral Department of Public Works; Anthony Palermo with the City of Fort Myers; Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers; Kalyani Bhutada with the Town of Fort Myers Beach; Anne McLaughlin with the Collier MPO; Gary Harrell, Lakshmi Gurram, and Sai Edara with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO; and Michael 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; Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver; Ned Baier with Volkert; Alayna Delgado, a member of the public; Steve Ludwinski with the Corradino Group; and Michael Tisch with FDOT.

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

Ms. Dawn Huff with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report. She mentioned that in the event of storm/hurricane, LeeTran's emergency response service will continue as it currently is until such time there are sustainable winds at 40 mph. She said that in response to COVID-19, LeeTran is currently operating on a Saturday schedule, Monday through Saturday, with Sundays operating under the regular Sunday service. She noted that LeeTran is cleaning vehicles regularly. She commented on several LeeTran projects including the Rosa Parks project in which Stantec for selected for design, the South project with an RTI for DRI amendment & design submitted with an anticipated start in April 2021, and the Lehigh Acres project with an RTI for design that will be submitted in the next week or so with an anticipated start in July 2021. Ms. Huff concluded her report with information on the update of the TDP and the COA. She said the COA is 57% complete, the TDP is 35% complete and the total combined completion is 48%. Chair Murphy asked if there were any questions for Ms. Huff. Mr. Carl Karakos asked about moving a bus stop near Woodford and Second Street, and said he would email Ms. Huff the specific information. There were no further comments or questions.

Agenda Item #3 - FDOT Report

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT gave the FDOT report. Mr. Tisch commented on the progress of the Work Program referencing several projects including Challenger/Winkler and the Lidar scanner. He said that if anyone would like a copy of the adopted Work Program, he would send it out once requested. Mr. Karakos asked about the roundabout projects and required forms. Mr. Tisch responded that he would have additional information within the next week. Chair Murphy asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the June 4, 2020 TAC Meeting Summary

Ms. Dawn Huff made the motion to approve the June 4, 2020 Meeting Summary. Mr. Michael Cook seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of the Aviation Priorities – TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

Mr. Don Scott explained that the Aviation Priorities were not available for approval at this meeting and will be brought back in September.

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 Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the Fiscal Year 2020 Roll Forward projects which are inserted at the end of the TIP that were attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Scott noted that 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 the projects 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 and this amendment is being done to account for these projects in the new TIP. Chair Murphy asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the Roll Forward Amendments. Mr. Rick Burris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - +Review and Provide Input on the Cape Coral Evacuation Study Scope of Services

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to provide input on the draft scope of services for the hurricane evacuation study originally raised by the MPO Board in 2015 that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. He said in 2015, there was a discussion about trying to move up the development of the I-75/Del Prado Interchange, by the MPO Board, during a presentation by FDOT about the process to go through to get a new interchange approved. He explained, as a result of those discussions, a Cape Coral evacuation study was included in the Long Range Plan project list and the funding for the project is included in this fiscal year. He said the thought behind the study is to help show the need and justification for a new access to the City of Cape Coral for evacuation purposes during an emergency event. He noted the scope has been drafted to look at the evacuation needs of the community and the roadway network that would be required, under certain scenarios, to meet reasonable clearance times. Mr. Scott said this is not going to the MPO Board until September so the committee can approve now or make changes and bring back for approval at the next meeting. Ms. Zambrano commented that she would like Cape Coral to be more involved as they have budgeted \$250,000 for the project. Mr. Scott agreed that in addition to the consultant selection process, he would like Cape Coral staff to be more involved as well. Ms. Zambrano requested that in writing. Ms. Zambrano then commented on the previous agenda item, noting she had audio issues at the beginning of the meeting. She mentioned she would coordinate with Mr. Scott on the removal of completed projects from the Roll Forward Amendments, Agenda Item #6. Mr. Scott said he was not sure on FDOT's process for removal of those projects, but he was aware there were several. Ms. Zambrano asked if a motion was needed for the current agenda item, #7 - Cape Coral Evacuation Study. Mr. Scott said a motion could be made now and then it will go to the MPO Board for approval at their next meeting.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the Cape Coral Evacuation Study Scope with the addition of language ensuring the continued involvement of Cape Coral staff in the study process. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - +Review and Provide Input on the Bonita Estero Rail Trail Feasibility Study Scope

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to provide input on the draft scope of services for the Rail Trail Feasibility Study that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. He gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on project details, funding, schedule, project limits, trail options, cost estimate, scope outline, and scope comments/additions. Mr. Gogoi's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Rail-Trail-Scope.pdf> Mr. Gogoi asked if there were any comments from those present and asked for comments to be submitted to him by August 14, 2020. Chair Murphy mentioned there may be a gap near the Alico/US 41 area between the existing and proposed facilities. Mr. Scott noted there is a street crossing involved. Mr. Gogoi commented on the consideration of a separated bridge. Chair Murphy explained he wanted to ensure there was connectivity to existing facilities. Mr. Gogoi said the CIP included the project on the north side of Alico for a sidewalk going east and maybe it could wait until the study is completed. Chair Murphy noted that project is unfunded, and he wasn't certain of its current ranking. He mentioned it would make sense to examine the existing facilities and move south. Ms. Anne McLaughlin commented on the detailed nature of the report and her hopes this project would provide connectivity to Collier. Mr. Gogoi commented on purchasing the rail right of way so the trail could move as far south as possible, connecting to Collier. Chair Murphy asked if there were any additional comments. He said additional feedback could be emailed to Mr. Gogoi. Chair Murphy asked about a motion. Mr. Gogoi said that this will come back at the next meeting, and a motion was not necessary now.

Agenda Item #9 - Update and Provide Input on the 2045 Long Range Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the LRTP development activities that includes the review of the draft Roadway Needs Plan Project list, the draft Transit Needs Plan map projects and the traffic projections from the different model runs that were attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. Mr. Scott gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on LRTP activities, project list, alternative three improvements map, alternative four improvements map, alternative four with connected and autonomous vehicles at 35% map, roadway volume comparisons table, E + C Network with Charlotte County map alternatives for east west corridor, draft SIS Cost Feasible projects, transit needs plan, rough calculation of revenues for capital projects, transportation revenues, scoring criteria, and public comments from meeting. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-9-LRTP-Update.pdf> Chair Murphy asked about the Alico connection and if funds would be available if design was skipped and moved right into environmental analysis. Mr. Scott replied there was not a lot of funding available. He explained the impacts to other local projects like Old 41 and Bonita Beach Road. He said that other projects could be done with stimulus funds. Chair Murphy said he had done some calculations on impacts of delaying the Alico project. Mr. Gogoi commented on the issues with funding if the PD&E is skipped. Mr. Scott noted it might be out of the time frame for stimulus funds if a PD&E is conducted. Mr. Gogoi suggested breaking the project into phases. Chair Murphy asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Lakshmi Gurram commented on the alternative model run three, referencing another run done by FDOT that indicated more traffic at the county line. Mr. Scott asked Mr. Gurram to forward that information to him. Mr. Scott added that another model run could be done. Mr. Gurram noted the I-75 PD&E study was being conducted. Mr. Scott commented that it was not getting in the SIS at this point. Mr. Gary Harrell asked how Mr. Scott was dealing with technology in the LRTP update. Mr.

Scott replied that it will be more than one page, but he was still unsure as to how in depth it will be. He said it will include information that notes scenario was run and possible changes that could result but as there is not an adopted model, he will just include a chapter that matches available information. Mr. Harrell said the assumption is 35% of fleet will be connected or autonomous vehicles by 2045. Mr. Scott said it may be lower. Mr. Harrell said the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO was looking at the topic the same way. Chair Murphy asked if there were any additional questions. Mr. Karakos asked about several Fort Myers projects that might have an impact. Mr. Scott requested the Fort Myers CIP be emailed to him. Mr. Karakos said he would send it as soon as it was available. Mr. Scott acknowledged that the CIPs were changing. Mr. Gogoi mentioned additional funding for roads that are part of the NHS network. A brief discussion followed on funding types and projects.

Agenda Item #10 - Review of the 2021 MPO Meeting Calendar

Chair Murphy introduced this agenda item as a review of the 2021 meeting calendar that was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the website. Ms. Barraco said the MPO Staff has compiled dates for the 2021 MPO meetings, based on the bylaws of the Board and the different committees, to get this on calendars and to secure reservations for the meeting rooms. She asked if there were any comments or changes to contact her.

Other Business

Agenda Item #11 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

Mr. Scott announced the upcoming LeeTran TDP meetings and said staff would email the information to the committee.

Agenda Item #13 - Topics for next meeting

Topics suggested for next meeting included the update of the LRTP, approval of the aviation priorities, and approval of the Rail Trail Scope.

Agenda #14 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the latest MPOAC update and a link to a commuter survey done by Kittelson and Associates.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/08-06-2020-tac>

*Action Items +May Require Action

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