

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Thursday, December 3, 2020  
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 at approximately 9:32 a.m. by Mr. Carl Karakos. Mr. Karakos was asked by MPO staff to Chair the meeting until TAC Chair Mr. David Murphy arrived. This TAC meeting had both in-person and virtual attendance options.

### Roll Call

The members that attended in-person introduced themselves. 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 (in-person); David Murphy (9:41 a.m.) with the Lee County Department of Transportation (in-person); Tyler Brown with the Lee County Port Authority (in-person); Dawn Huff with LeeTran (in-person); Cindy Leal Brizuela with Lee County Schools (virtual), Wyatt Daltry with the Cape Coral Department of Community Development (virtual); Persides Zambrano with the Cape Coral Department of Public Works (in-person); Anthony Palermo with the City of Fort Myers Department of Planning (virtual); Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers Department of Engineering (in-person); Craig Chandler (9:41 a.m.) with the City of Sanibel Department of Planning (in-person), Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs Department of Public Works (in-person), Matt Noble with the Village of Estero (in-person); Mike Cook with the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (in-person); Josephine Medina with the Collier MPO (virtual); and Gary Harrell (in-person) and Sai Edara (virtual) with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO. Others in attendance included Don Scott (in-person), Ron Gogoi (in-person), and Calandra Barraco (in-person) with the Lee County MPO; Steve Ludwinski with the Corradino Group (virtual); Tamara Pigott with Lee County (virtual); Ned Baier with Volkert (virtual); Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver (virtual); and Victoria Peters with FDOT (in-person).

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda. Ms. Dawn Huff with LeeTran asked for additional time to pull-up her report. Acting Chair Karakos asked for FDOT staff to present the FDOT report allowing additional time for Ms. Huff to prepare.

### Agenda Item #3 – FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT provided the FDOT Report. Ms. Peters noted the Work Program public hearing would be held from January 11 through January 15. She said there would also be an open house for the Work Program at the FDOT Southwest Area Office/Sunguide Center on January 12 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Ms. Peters noted she would send out an email with additional information.

### Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Ms. Dawn Huff with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report. Ms. Huff announced the Beach Trolley would begin service on January 3. She also commented on several awards that LeeTran had recently received.

## **New Business**

### **Agenda Item #4 - \*Review and Approval of the November 5, 2020 TAC Meeting Summary**

**Mr. Mike Cook made the motion to approve the November 5, 2020 Meeting Summary. Ms. Persides Zambrano seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #5 - \*Review and Approve an Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add FTA Section 5310 grant funding for LeeTran in the current fiscal year. The draft TIP page was attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Scott said the FY 2021 through FY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is being amended to add FTA Section 5310 grant funding for LeeTran, this includes operating funds in the amount of \$200,000 and the FPN is 448461-1.

**Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Dawn Huff seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #6 - \*Endorsement of the 2045 LRTP Adoption Summary Report**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review, comment, and endorsement of the 2045 LRTP Adoption Summary Report that will be adopted at the December MPO Board meeting. Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on explanation of plan, vision, timeline, base year data, projected data, FDOT regional transportation model, Federal and State project timeline, constrained roadway map, public involvement, and overview of public comments. Chair Murphy arrived at 9:41 a.m. A brief discussion followed on how many comments were submitted for each topic/item, allowing MPO Board to know how many comments were provided for each item, providing number of comments behind each item in documentation, location of 951, Brightline Rail, and Charlotte example of public comments submissions. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with a slide on the Needs Plan. Ms. Zambrano asked Mr. Scott to remove Kismet. Mr. Scott said he would remove it. Chair Murphy asked about proposing a Sunshine to SR 80 connection as a need. Mr. Scott replied that it was looked at in a model run and didn't carry a lot of traffic. Chair Murphy asked about Joel to Leeland facilities. Mr. Scott noted it could be shown as reconstruction instead of widening. Chair Murphy asked about looking at four laning Joel in the future as it would be needed. Mr. Scott said in the end it has to fit with revenues. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with slides on revenues and cost feasible roadway projects. Ms. Zambrano asked about the bridge on Pine Island. Chair Murphy explained the location and project plans. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with a slide on the existing priority project tables. Chair Murphy commented on the Metro phases. Mr. Scott showed the Metro projects in the table on his presentation slide. The committee then briefly discussed the Metro project and the Old US 41 project. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with the project tables, and he referenced the Ortiz project. Chair Murphy mentioned that was a major corridor and is moving up. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with slides on transit operations congestion management and other jurisdiction projects. The committee then discussed the Alico project and Corkscrew planned projects. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with slides on SIS Cost Feasible Plan and bike ped projects. Chair Murphy asked about the Ben Hill project. Mr. Scott explained. Chair Murphy asked if it was the Benderson property. Mr. Scott replied yes explaining the assumption is the developer will be responsible for the project. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with slides on transit needs plan, mix of modes, transit revenues, transit costs, transit

cost feasible plan, and bike ped facilities/map. Ms. Zambrano referred to the map and noted there were sidewalks on Chiquita. Mr. Scott said he was still cleaning up the map. Chair Murphy asked about the bridge in Lehigh near the schools on Sunshine. Mr. Scott said there was talk of adding the bridge as there is a need but it will take a long time to fund. He noted that it would not hurt to add the bridge as everyone wants it. Chair Murphy said adding it would be a good place to start and said it should be added as a vehicle bridge. Chair Murphy also mentioned the pedestrian/bicycle bridge being constructed on Bell. A brief discussion followed on the bridges in Lehigh. Mr. Scott said he would add a bridge on Sunshine to the needs. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-2045-LRTP-1.pdf> Mr. Gogoi then gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on truck volume percentages, RSW freight volumes, freight volumes in other areas in Florida, and COVID impacts. There was a brief discussion on air cargo. Mr. Scott noted that across the nation truck percentages are down as well. Mr. Gogoi continued his presentation with slides on commodity flow analysis. Mr. Gogoi's Freight Element presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-Freight-Slides.pdf> Mr. Scott said he would address the comments made at the meeting and add them to the LRTP. Those comments included: Add connection for Sunrise Blvd. Schools in Lehigh to Needs Plan, Add reconstruction of Joel down to Leeland Heights (4 lanes, median, bike/ped etc.) to Needs Plan, Add back in the Sunshine up to SR 80 in the Needs Plan, and Remove Kismet from the Needs Plan map (not in project list).

**Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to endorse the 2045 LRTP Adoption Summary Report with the additions of the comments to add connection for Sunrise Blvd. Schools in Lehigh to Needs Plan, add reconstruction of Joel down to Leeland Heights (4 lanes, median, bike/ped etc.) to Needs Plan, add back in the Sunshine up to SR 80 in the Needs Plan, and remove Kismet from the Needs Plan map (not in project list). Mr. Mike Cook seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #7 - \*Endorsement of Applications for FY 2021 SRTS Funds**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to recommend MPO Board Endorsement of Applications for FY 2021 Safe Route to School Funds. He gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the two proposals that are being submitted. He reviewed the proposals as follows:

**Proposal 1:** The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit multiple schools within Cape Coral including Skyline Elementary, Challenger Middle, and Patriot Elementary. Sidewalks are proposed on (1) the east side of Skyline Boulevard from SR 78 to Trafalgar Parkway and (2) the north side of SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street from Skyline Boulevard to Chiquita Boulevard.

**Cost Estimate:** \$621,978

**Maintaining Agency:** City of Cape Coral

**Proposal 2:** The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit multiple schools including Fort Myers Middle Academy, Allen Park and Fort Myers High. Sidewalks are proposed on (1) the south side of Hanson Street from Royal Palm Avenue to Cleveland Avenue (2) south side of Braman Avenue from Central to Fowler Street (3) south side of Braman Avenue from Broadway Avenue to Grande Avenue (4) north side of Moreno Avenue from Fowler Street to Broadway Avenue and (5) south side of Unity Avenue/Kennesaw Street from Fowler Street to Broadway Avenue.

**Cost Estimate:** \$813,000

**Maintaining Agency:** City of Fort Myers and Lee County BOCC

He also reviewed slides of the project location maps, two (2) mile student zone maps, student demographics data, detailed cost estimates, and schedule. He noted the BPOCC recommended MPO endorsement at their November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Gogoi's presentation can be viewed here:

<https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-SRTS-Endorsement.pdf>

**Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to recommend MPO Board endorsement of Applications for FY 2021 Safe Route to School Funds. Mr. Matt Feeney seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

The committee briefly discussed the presentation format, screen sharing for the virtual component to view presentations, inability of virtual component to hear all comments, and the upcoming in-person only MPO Board meeting.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Information on the TBARTA Transit Technologies Study**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the TBARTA Transit Technology Study. Mr. Scott gave a Power Point presentation with slides that included information on the HyperloopTT technology, stations, benefits, development projects, hyperloop status, innovative transit technologies study conducted by TBARTA, cable propelled transit, benefits and concerns, generalized characteristics, air taxis, urban air mobility technology, and implementation status. The committee briefly discussed cables, influence of the car industry, cost effectiveness, autonomous taxis, trips to Tallahassee, Uber helicopter in New York, Portland area innovations, areas where driving isn't feasible, Charlotte County flying car startup, process of using flying car, using the vertical space above the roadways, paving companies, and using both new and existing technologies. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-TBARTA-Transit-Technologies.pdf> Listed below is a link to TBARTA's transit technology webpage that includes more information on what they are working on: <https://www.tbarta.com/en/planning-programs/innovative-transit-technology/>

### **Agenda Item #9 - 2021 MPO Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Scott noted the 2021 MPO meeting schedule was included for committee member information and use. Mr. Karakos asked when the new officers will be voted in. Mr. Scott said that would be on the next meeting's agenda. There was a brief discussion on the current Vice-Chair, Mr. Matt Feeney.

### **Other Business**

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

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

### **Agenda Item #11 – Announcements**

Chair Murphy asked about the City of Fort Myers Manager. Mr. Karakos announced the City of Fort Myers Manager would be retiring in May. He also mentioned the ribbon cutting for the Hanson Street projects.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting**

Topics suggested for next meeting included election of officers.

### **Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items**

There were no information and distribution items.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.**

**An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/12-03-2020-tacwma>**

\*Action Items †May Require Action

---

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at [cbarraco@leempo.com](mailto:cbarraco@leempo.com) at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.