

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, January 7, 2021
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 MPO Executive Director Mr. Don Scott. This TAC meeting had both in-person and virtual attendance options. Chair David Murphy arrived at 9:33 a.m.

Roll Call

The members that attended in-person introduced themselves. Ms. Barraco named those members attending virtually. 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 (9:33 a.m.) with the Lee County Department of Transportation (in-person); Tyler Brown with the Lee County Port Authority (in-person); Arnold Valdez with LeeTran (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); Carl Bengé with the Town of Fort Myers Beach (in-person); Oisin Dolley with the City of Sanibel (in-person), Matt Noble with the Village of Estero (in-person); Mike Cook with the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (in-person); and Josephine Medina with the Collier MPO (virtual). 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); Ned Baier with Volkert (in-person); 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.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Arnold Valdez with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report. Mr. Valdez reported the Rosa Parks and South Area Park and Ride projects are moving forward. He also noted that Mr. Levi McCollum was leaving LeeTran to work with PalmTran on the east coast of Florida. There was a brief discussion on the departure of Mr. McCollum.

Agenda Item #3 – FDOT Report and Agenda Item #8 – Review of Draft FDOT Tentative Work Program

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT provided the FDOT Report which included Agenda Item #8 – Review of the Draft FDOT Tentative Work Program. Ms. Peters gave a brief overview of the Draft FDOT Tentative Work Program for FY 2021/2022 through FY 2025/2026 including information on the release of the draft Work Program set for January 8, the e-public hearing that is scheduled for January 11th through January 15, 2021, the in-person meeting being held on January 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at FDOT SWAO office, and project additions. Mr. Gogoi referred to the Pauling project in Bonita Springs and noted the design is funded, and the project should be for construction dollars only. Ms. Peters replied this will be corrected when the new draft is out. Ms. Peters continued her presentation with additions to the Work Program. There was a brief discussion on the funding amounts for a Cape Coral project and a Fort Myers project mentioned by Ms. Peters. Ms. Peters continued her presentation with additions to the Work Program, safety projects, bridge rehabilitation project, and re-

surfacing projects. Mr. Gogoi mentioned a resurfacing project that the BPC discussed and the inclusion of bicycle lanes in that project. Mr. Karakos asked who would do the study for that project. Mr. Gogoi said it would be done as part of the resurfacing project. Ms. Peters said she would discuss the project with Mr. Wayne Gaither and the project manager to see what could be done. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that the landscaping is dependent on the County Commissioners as the project is in unincorporated Lee County. The committee also discussed the project from the Edison Bridge to SR 78 on business US 41, the possibility of extending that project past the bridge, lane diets, bicycle lanes, medians, restricting access, three foot shoulders, dual turn lanes, and center turn lanes. Ms. Peters continued her presentation with information on the Cape Coral bridge replacement. The committee briefly discussed the amount of funding for that project. Ms. Zambrano asked when the draft Work Program will be available to view. Ms. Peters replied Friday, January 8. Ms. Peters continued her presentation with information on landscaping projects, advancements, and deferrals. The committee briefly discussed the deferral of the Big Carlos reimbursement, Big Carlos project start date, number of payments for reimbursements, source of reimbursement funding, timeline for other projects, and moving reimbursement back to previous schedule. Ms. Peters continued her presentation with additional information on deferrals. The committee briefly discussed funding amounts, moving money from the Estero Blvd. project, total funding amount for that project, amount being reimbursed by FDOT, and discussion of deferred projects with Lee County staff prior to their deferral. Ms. Peters continued her presentation with additional information on deferrals and the release of the citizens report. The committee briefly discussed the likelihood of change to this draft Work Program, TRIP funds changes discussion with Lee County staff, informing Work Program staff that Lee County may not be amenable to deferral status of bridge reimbursement, citizens report, variance report, Buckingham roundabout, STIP/TIP amendment, and possible use of safety funds. Mr. Scott added the Work Program will be forwarded to the committee tomorrow, January 8, once it is received. Ms. Peters noted comments can be submitted online.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the December 3, 2020 TAC Meeting Summary

Mr. Mike Cook made the motion to approve the December 3, 2020 Meeting Summary. Ms. Persides Zambrano seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Election of Officers for 2021

Mr. Don Scott introduced this agenda item for the Election a Chair and a Vice-Chair for 2021. He asked for nominations and then a vote. Chair Murphy nominated Ms. Persides Zambrano for the position of Chair. There were no other nominations for Chair.

Mr. David Murphy made the motion to elect Ms. Persides Zambrano as Chair of the TAC for 2021. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Murphy asked for a volunteer/nomination for Vice-Chair. Ms. Persides Zambrano nominated Mr. Carl Karakos for Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to elect Mr. Carl Karakos as Vice-Chair of the TAC for 2021. Mr. Mike Cook and Mr. Oisin Dolley simultaneously seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Murphy asked when these new positions will take effect. Mr. Scott said next meeting.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approval of Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

Mr. Scott said this agenda item was being deferred to a later meeting as staff and FDOT were working on resolving the funding procurement for the scanner. Mr. Scott mentioned several possibilities/options that were being explored. Ms. Peters added that Mr. Gaither had also been working on this. The committee briefly discussed the old JPA program, new type of grant agreement, scanner purchase, possibility for Cape to fund, MPO ownership of scanner, prior LAP certification of MPO, possible amendment to be approved by MPO Board, including scanner in MPO asset list, and FDOT continued coordination with MPO to resolve.

Agenda Item #7 - *Recommend MPO Update of Transit Asset Management Plan Targets

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to recommend the MPO Board Update its Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP) Performance Measure Targets to reflect the recent update made by LeeTran. His presentation included a review of the performance measure chart that was also attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Gogoi also briefly explained useful life as it pertains to LeeTran assets. Mr. Gogoi's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-Lee-County-Transit-TAM-Performance-Measures.1.pptx> Mr. Gogoi asked for the committee to recommend MPO Board approval. Chair Murphy asked for a motion.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to recommend the MPO Update of Transit Asset Management Plan Targets. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - Overview of the Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an overview of the Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Mr. Scott gave a brief presentation that included slides with information on measuring progress, key strategies, emphasis areas, and crash data dashboard. The committee discussed vision zero, FDOT PSA, ramifications of not meeting goal, nationwide write-up, similar results with vision zero and percentage goals, realistic goals, rolling average, hit-and-runs, percentage of uninsured motorists, lack of enforcement, CTST, lack of staffing for local law enforcement agencies, artificially lowering rates, inspection stations in other states, running red lights, nationwide issues with poor driver behavior, education, highway safety grants, red light cameras, and Sanibel use of tag scanners. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-9-Fl-Strategic-Highway-Safety-Plan.pptx> A link to the draft document is located here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/T09a.Report-FDOT-SHSP-Dec-20.pdf>

Agenda Item #10 - Information on the Lee County Safety Performance Measures

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item with information on the FDOT provided updated safety performance measures adding in the 2019 fatality and injury data for each of the MPOs across the State. He noted the five year rolling averages now include 2015 to 2019 data as well as the five national Safety Measures which all State Departments of Transportation and MPOs must address as follows: Number of Fatalities, Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), Number of Serious Injuries, Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT, and Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries. He reviewed the Lee County data that can be viewed at the following link: https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/T10a.2019_FHWA_PerformanceMeasuresPerMPO_DataExtractAsOf2020-12-04_Light_DRAFT.pdf The committee discussed the decrease in traffic volumes due to COVID-19, increases in speed, impacts/deaths attributed to COVID-19, and recent accidents in Lee County.

Other Business

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

Mr. Ned Baier with Volkert announced the MPO Board approved the 2045 LRTP Executive Summary at their December meeting. He added the full report will be out next month. Ms. Zambrano asked if it will be posted on the MPO website. Mr. Scott replied yes. Mr. Scott also noted the full report will address any CIP changes/updates, work program, and modeling.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

Mr. Scott mentioned the upcoming Work Program meeting on January 12 and the Big Carlos meeting on January 28. Chair Murphy provided additional information on the Big Carlos meeting. Ms. Zambrano asked about the Cape Coral bridge meeting. Chair Murphy said Lee County staff was planning a workshop for the spring. Ms. Zambrano asked to be included in the process so that she could coordinate with Cape Council. Chair Murphy suggested the City of Cape Coral administrator coordinate with the Lee County administrator. Chair Murphy also mentioned project scheduling concerns and timeline. There was a brief discussion on the scope and funding. Mr. Gogoi asked about the cost estimate for the vehicular bridge in Lehigh on Sunrise, noting that CAC members had asked about this. Chair Murphy said he would share the estimate. Mr. Gogoi said he would send a reminder email. Mr. Scott said he estimated the bridge at \$2.2 million. Chair Murphy said he recalls his estimate was similar. Mr. Gogoi confirmed the road in front of the school was private but will be built to county standards by the School District to enable Lee County to take over. Chair Murphy added the other side of the canal is a local road.

Agenda Item #13 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Scott said the February Board meeting will be a joint meeting with Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO so there may not be items for the TAC to approve prior to that meeting. Topics suggested for next meeting included a presentation on the freight element of the LRTP. Mr. Gogoi noted the next TAC/CAC meetings were not joint meetings. There was a brief discussion on the history of joint meetings with Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, topics for joint Lee-Charlotte meetings, and the airport in Charlotte County.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/01-07-2021-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 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.