

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, March 4, 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 9:31 a.m. by Chair Persides Zambrano.

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; Jorge Puente with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the Cape Coral Department of Public Works; Barb Carr with the City of Fort Myers; Carl Bengé with the Town of Fort Myers Beach; Matt Noble with the Village of Estero; Bill Walker with the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District; 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; Matt Wiesenfeld (in-person), Dan Haake (virtual), and Melissa Porcaro (virtual) with HDR; and Victoria Peters with FDOT.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

Agenda Item #3 – FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT noted that FDOT had nothing to report, but she was available to answer any questions. There were no questions or comments for FDOT.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the January 7, 2021 TAC Meeting Summary

Mr. Matt Noble made the motion to approve the January 7, 2021 Meeting Summary. Mr. Rick Burris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a wrong way driving safety project at various off ramps and to adjust the FTA 5305 transit planning funds to remove the state and local funding. Mr. Scott reviewed the draft TIP pages and the FDOT request letter that were attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. He said the FY 2021 through FY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is being amended to add a new safety project in FY 2022 to address wrong way driving on various off ramps in the amount of \$1,654,021. He added, an amendment is also being made to remove the local and state funding match for the Section 5305 transit planning funding that the MPO receives as the state is now going to match their portion of funding with toll revenue credits. He asked if there were any questions. Chair Zambrano asked if the wrong way driving item was a study. Mr. Scott replied no and explained that it would involve implementation of traffic control devices. Ms. Peters added she would forward information on the interchanges involved once she receives it. Chair Zambrano asked if there was a motion.

Mr. Matt Noble made the motion to approve the TIP Amendments. Mr. Rick Burris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approval of FY 2020/2021 Unified Planning Work Program Amendments

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendments to remove the local and state match funding from the transit planning task. He reviewed the new task table, the old task table, and the revised budget sheets with the 5305 20% soft match that were attached to the agenda packets and posted to the MPO website. He said the amendments to the transit planning task are being processed to match the recent change by FDOT to match the FTA Section 5305 funds with toll revenue credits, instead of a 10% state and 10% local match. He added the new task table for the transit planning task now reflects the addition of the toll revenue credits for the current year funding along with including the carry forward amounts with the previous approved state and local match amounts. Chair Zambrano commented this was a housekeeping item and asked for a motion.

Mr. Matt Noble made the motion to approve the UPWP Amendments. Mr. Gary Harrell seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Presentation of the Goods Movement Study

Mr. Ron Gogoi introduced this agenda item for the presentation of the Goods Movement Study. He noted the study comprising the LRTP's freight component has been completed and referenced the following link for the Freight Element that was included in the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website: https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Freight-Element_10Feb2021.pdf. He then introduced Mr. Matt Wiesenfeld with HDR, the MPO's consultant for the Freight Element. Mr. Wiesenfeld then introduced Mr. Dan Haake and Ms. Melissa Porcaro, also with HDR, to provide a virtual presentation of the study. Mr. Haake gave a PowerPoint presentation that contained slides with information on developing the goals and objectives, review of the goals, current and planned development, freight activity centers, highway freight network, freight mobility corridors, quick facts on the network, rail freight, improvement opportunities, air cargo 101, Fed Ex and UPS air cargo, commodity flow, 2018 trade data, freight volumes by mode tables, truck friendly design solutions, City of Fort Myers examples, performance measures, daily vehicle miles traveled, graphs of congestion/miles traveled/reliability/pavement conditions, freight needs and investments, sources consulted, rail improvements, air cargo improvements, cost feasible highway projects, multimodal needs, and recommendations. He asked if there were any questions. The entire presentation can be viewed here: https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-7-Lee-County-Freight-TAC_CAC_Presentation_20210304.pdf The committee briefly discussed truck friendly roadways, City of Fort Myers roundabout, designing roundabouts to include freight, using 2018 data, lack of availability of newer data, availability and expense of StreetLight data, providing visual or map for cost feasible table, including more information on autonomous freight, truck parking issues, technology issues with autonomous freight, public perception of connected autonomous trucks, car haulers unloading procedures, managing streets for accessibility to all modes, continuing deliveries in City of Fort Myers in morning hours, Uber/Lyft pick-up and drop-off areas, Seminole Gulf and CSX railways, rails to trails project, shortening freight presentation for MPO Board meeting, definition of freight categories/classifications, mines in Punta Gorda, including dump trucks in freight, air traffic at Southwest Florida International. adding second runway to Southwest Florida International, and volume of air traffic comparisons from 2019 to 2020. Chair Zambrano thanked the HDR team for their presentation.

Agenda Item #8 - *Review and Approval of the Freight Project Priorities

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to recommend MPO Board adoption of updated 2021 Lee MPO Freight Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet and posted to the MPO website. Mr. Gogoi gave a brief Power Presentation that included slides with information on the proposed Lee MPO freight priorities. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-8-Freight-Priorities.pdf> The committee briefly discussed the priorities and their order, benefits of including projects in state list, growth near Metro Parkway, traffic comparisons, continuing with a proactive approach, sources of information, SR 31 bridge replacement, interactive map used for data, congestion impacts on freight, Del Prado congestion, traffic counts for Ward Six in Fort Myers, Metro project phases, smart growth, slowing growth, and concurrency.

Mr. Carl Bengé made the motion to approve the Freight Project Priorities. Mr. Gary Harrell seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - Review of the Draft Regional TRIP Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to review and provide input on the draft TRIP priorities. He noted that he did not have the priorities from Collier County yet. He added that the priorities would be endorsed by each MPO separately. He then reviewed the priority list. Chair Zambrano commented that Burnt Store was at the top of the list. Mr. Scott replied yes, and noted that once Collier's priorities were received then the list would be re-scored. He also mentioned projects that were added to the list, Ortiz and Veterans. Chair Zambrano asked about funding for the bridges. Mr. Scott said there was nothing beyond replacement in the LRTP but when funding was available an amendment could be done. Chair Zambrano asked if the list will be brought back when the Collier priorities are added. Mr. Scott replied yes.

Agenda Item #10 - Information on the US41 Caloosahatchee Bridge Discussions at the MPO Board

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the US41 Caloosahatchee Bridge Discussions at the MPO Board. Mr. Scott gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on background, several options, and other issues. He asked if there were any comments. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-10-Caloosahatchee-Bridge.pdf> The committee briefly discussed switchbacks, Charlotte ADA issues, examples in other areas, and cost estimates.

Other Business

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

Mr. Scott read a comment submitted by Mr. Steve Henry, a member of the CAC regarding accidents and prohibiting passing on Burnt Store Road. Chair Zambrano suggested to send the email to Lee County staff. Mr. Scott said he would. There were no other public comments.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

Mr. Scott announced the SR 31 PD&E public hearing would be held on March 11 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and would have both virtual and in-person options. He also mentioned Mr. Carl Mikyska was leaving the MPOAC and taking a position as the Executive Director of the Pasco MPO. He said that Mr. Mikyska would continue to produce the Legislative Updates. He noted that Mr. Jeff Kramer would serve as interim director of the MPOAC. Chair Zambrano mentioned the legislation regarding

caps on impact fees. Ms. Peters asked about regional planning councils. Mr. Scott said he was unsure of the current status.

Agenda Item #13 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Scott noted there was no meeting in April and the next meeting would be held in May. Topics suggested for the May meeting included draft TIP, priorities, and the USBR 15.

Agenda Item #2 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Jorge Puente with LeeTran provided the LeeTran report. He gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on April service changes and maps of the new routes. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-2-LeeTran-SCC-Presentation.pdf> Chair Zambrano asked when the new changes would be implemented. Mr. Puente said April 25. Mr. Puente also gave a brief update from Ms. Dawn Huff on the LeeTran Rosa Parks, Lehigh, and South Area projects. Mr. Gogoi asked if Mr. Puente could provide any renderings of the new projects for the May meeting. Mr. Puente said he would coordinate with Ms. Huff on that. Mr. Puente also mentioned the new bus shelters being installed.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the latest MPOAC Legislative Update.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/03-04-2021-tacwma>

*Action Items †May Require Action

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