

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, August 4, 2022
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 9:34 a.m. by Chair Carl Karakos.

Roll Call

Those present introduced themselves. The roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those members in attendance included Farhan Butt and Tom Marquardt with Lee County; Ian Sikonia with Lee County Port Authority; Dawn Huff with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Anthony Palermo and Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers; Jason Smalley with the Town of Fort Myers Beach; Matt Noble with the Village of Estero; Scott Philips with the Collier MPO; D'Juan Harris with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO; and Mike Cook with Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District. Others in attendance included Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; Andy Getch with McCormick Taylor; and a Cape Coral Police Department Officer.

Mr. Scott mentioned there was an additional item being added as a walk-on to the agenda regarding a survey that FDOT is sending out. The committee agreed to address that item later in the meeting.

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 presented the LeeTran report. She provided updates on LeeTran's Rosa Parks and South Transfer Facilities, existing mobility on demand in Bonita, and upcoming mobility on demand in Lehigh. The committee briefly discussed the two way operation in Fort Myers, mobility on demand possibility in Cape Coral, funding contributions from Bonita, vehicles used for mobility on demand, difficulty in acquiring paratransit vehicles, grant funding for Lehigh mobility on demand, mobility on demand project in North Fort Myers, ridership for mobility on demand in Bonita, comparison to fixed route service, providing ridership numbers for Bonita mobility on demand at next meeting, downtown Fort Myers service, autonomous shuttle, and funding.

Agenda Item #3 – FDOT Report

There was no FDOT report.

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the June 2, 2022 Meeting Summary

Mr. Matt Noble and Ms. Dawn Huff simultaneously made the motion to approve the June 2, 2022 Meeting Summary. Mr. Farhan Butt seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approval of the TIP Roll Forward Amendments

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the Fiscal Year 2022 Roll Forward projects which are inserted at the end of the TIP. These amendments were [posted to the MPO website](#), attached to the packet, and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. Scott explained the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provides the MPO with a roll forward report that includes projects in the previous state fiscal year that were not started, have uncommitted portions of projects that have started, or have funds remaining on completed projects. He added these projects automatically roll forward in FDOT's Work Program but need to be accounted for in the MPO's new TIP. He noted this amendment is being done to account for these projects in the FY 2023 through FY 2027 TIP. He reviewed several projects in the roll forward report. The committee briefly discussed the Chiquita project funds remaining.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made the motion to approve the TIP Roll Forward Amendments. Mr. D'Juan Harris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Provide Input on the CAC Resolution Recommending the Implementation of an Increased Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Registration Fee

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of and input on a resolution recommending the implementation of an increased registration fee for electric and hybrid vehicles. The Citizen Advisory Committee resolution and the breakdown of fees by state were [posted to the MPO website](#), attached to the packet, and shown as slides at the meeting. Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on fuel consumption, average fuel efficiency, electric vehicle (EV) impacts on market share, EV impacts to transportation revenue, percentage of EV sales, other state EV fee examples, Florida driver averages, and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) resolution. Mr. Scott said staff was seeking recommendations on this agenda item. Mr. Ron Gogoi then provided additional slides with information on registration fees, breakdown of EV versus rest of vehicles, EV and hybrids, and EV ranking. The EV presentation can be viewed here: [EV Presentation](#) The committee discussed updating Mr. Gogoi's fee in the chart to \$275 instead of \$175 to match the proposed fee from the CAC, differences between vehicle categories, California leading nation in number of EVs, ensuring Florida fee is not highest in nation, impact of multimodal and Complete Streets, vehicle miles travelled issues, widening roads, adding transit, presentation to real estate society example, length of trips to services, Lehigh population, need for other types of services, seasonal population, example of Washington D. C. area as possible comparable area with good mass transit services, possibility of conducting an intermodal network optimization study, business to support growth, affordable housing, sprawl and car-centric nature of Florida, ways to address this issue, example of express routes, projects cut due to lack of interest in mass transit, example in Collier, issues with transit, need for education related to transit, incentives to ride transit, van pool, mobility on demand, seasonal traffic issues, future issues and projections, bus rapid transit, Fort Myers Beach studies, example of California on demand services, economic development related to mobility on demand, paratransit for medical trips, identification of corridors, preservation of corridors for possible future use, reason for CAC action on EV fees, funding, possibility that EV fees should be addressed by City Council or County Commission, concern with attaching a fee, example of past legislation, equity among all road users, challenges with mileage based user fee, vehicle weight considerations, different ways of calculating fees, replacement of gas tax, and objections to motion.

Ms. Persides Zambrano made a motion of no objection. Mr. Scott Philips seconded the motion. There were two objections, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item #7 - Provide Input on Upcoming LRTP Amendments

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for input on upcoming LRTP Amendments. He explained MPO staff has begun working on proposed amendments to the 2045 LRTP that will be voted on later this fall and these amendments will include changes to the tables to address some of the guidance that was provided by FHWA and FDOT on better illustrating the comparison of project costs and revenues by funding source. The FDOT guidance information was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on FHWA comments, fund table, table example from Tallahassee, Kingston project and need for Corkscrew amendment, map of Kingston project area, and 2045 LRTP map. His presentation can be viewed here: [LRTP Presentation](#) The committee discussed roadway lining up with Eisenhower, transit and density to support it, amendment of needs and cost feasible, approval of Kingston project, additional modeling needed, Cape development off Burnt Store, possible six lane need in future for Burnt Store, development on Charlotte side of Burnt Store, Charlotte County feasibility study to consider six lanes for Burnt Store, connecting roads in Charlotte County like Zimmel, and constrained section of Burnt Store in Charlotte County.

Agenda Item #8 - Provide Input on Joint Meeting Discussions and Agenda Items with the Collier MPO

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for input on joint meeting discussions and agenda items with the Collier MPO. He said the Lee and Collier MPOs are in the process of planning for joint TAC, CAC and MPO committee meetings this fall. He mentioned the Joint TAC and CAC meetings might be held at the end of October or beginning of November, possibly at the FDOT SWIFT Center as the CAC has requested an upcoming meeting be held there. He said staff is seeking input on potential agenda items for the upcoming joint meetings with the following agenda items suggested thus far for consideration: Review and Approve the updated Joint Coordination Agreement, Status Report on the I-75 Feasibility Study, and Update on Regional Roadway Projects Crossing/Vicinity of the County Line. He noted there had been a lack of quorum at past joint MPO Board meetings. Chair Karakos asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #9 - Overview of Crash Data Year to Date

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an overview of the crash data year to date. He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on crash dashboard, CTST crash data through June, June crashes by type, and Dangerous by Design report. His presentation can be viewed here: [Crash Data Presentation](#) The committee discussed if the data was based on miles driven, data as a rate, increase of eight percent last time, impact of COVID, urbanized area population versus Lee County population, using special data to identify causality, reading reports, local example, and difficulties in solving issues.

Walk-On Agenda Item – Draft SIS 2050 Cost Feasible Plan

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item on the Draft SIS 2050 Cost Feasible Plan. He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides on SIS corridors, SIS connector, estimates development schedule, candidate projects, and MPO coordination/prioritization and survey. His presentation can be viewed here: [Draft SIS Presentation](#). The committee discussed managed lanes, express lanes, pay by tag, toll, high occupancy vehicle lane, public involvement, deadline for submission of comments, difficulty in planning thirty years out, more frequent updates to plan, possible improvements to MLK, planning for future growth, and right of way on I-75.

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

Ms. Zambrano announced Cape Coral was hiring a city planner, and the information had been forwarded to committee members by MPO staff.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

Topics suggested for the next meeting included mobility on demand numbers, van pooling, popular corridor ridership, and overall ridership. Mr. Scott noted the next meeting was scheduled for September 1. The committee briefly discussed performance measure adoption, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding, new FDOT freight coordinator, new FDOT SUN Trail coordinator, and SUN Trail project applications and submissions.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [August 4, 2022 TAC](#)

***Action Items *May Require Action**

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