

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Thursday, May 4, 2023
City of Cape Coral Public Works Building
815 Nicholas Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33990
9:30 a.m.



Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Carl Karakos, who agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of the TAC Chair and Vice-Chair.

Roll Call

Those present introduced themselves. The roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those members in attendance included Farhan Butt with Lee County; Ian Sikonia with Lee County Port Authority; Dawn Huff with LeeTran; Tony Palermo and Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers; David Willems and Matt Noble with the Village of Estero; Sean Kingston with the Collier MPO; D’Juan Harris with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO; and David Lindsay with the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District. Others in attendance included Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; Victoria Peters with FDOT (9:46 a.m.); and Steve Ludwinski with Corradino.

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 on the Lehigh project out for bid with a projected completion date of November 2024, the South Transfer Station with an estimated opening date of June 8, and service changes pending the opening of the South Transfer Station. There was a brief discussion on the mobility-on-demand programs in Bonita and Lehigh, possible bus rapid transit or express bus, and van pooling with presentation suggested for a future meeting.

Agenda Item #3 – FDOT Report

FDOT had nothing to report at this time in the meeting, but Mr. Scott mentioned there were several upcoming public meetings including SR 78 PD&E and Bonita/US 41. The committee briefly discussed pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHBs).

New Business

Agenda Item #4 - *Review and Approval of the March 2, 2023 Meeting Summary

Mr. Matt Noble made the motion to approve the March 2, 2023 Meeting Summary. Mr. D’Juan Harris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Review and Approve Transportation Improvement Program Amendments to Add Transit Low-No Emission Grant Funding

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments to add LeeTran Low-No Emission grant funding which were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). The committee briefly discussed local

match requirement, charging stations, and existing conduits. Acting Chair Karakos asked for a motion.

Mr. Farhan Butt made the motion to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendments to Add Transit Low-No Emission Grant Funding. Mr. Matt Noble seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approve Unified Planning Work Program Amendments to Add Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Funded Project and Project Schedule/Budget Updates

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendments which were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He reviewed the amendments. The committee discussed the advertisement requirements, use of pre-approved General Planning Consultants, budget restrictions, Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO SS4A project, and large number of SS4A grants awarded. Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT arrived during this item (9:46 a.m.)

Mr. Ian Sikonia made the motion to approve the Unified Planning Work Program Amendments to add Safe Streets for All Grant Funded Project and Project Schedule/Budget Updates. Mr. D’Juan Harris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - *Review and Approval of the Updated Lee and Collier & Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda TRIP Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Updated Lee and Collier and Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). The updated Lee Collier priority list can be viewed here: [Updated Lee Collier TRIP Priorities](#) He reviewed the TRIP priority lists. The committee briefly discussed the Burnt Store project and coordination between Charlotte County Public Works and Lee County Department of Transportation.

Mr. Matt Noble made the motion to approve the Updated Lee and Collier & Lee and Charlotte County – Punta Gorda Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities. Ms. Dawn Huff seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Victoria Peters with FDOT provided an addition to the FDOT report agenda item that was taken at the beginning of the meeting. She mentioned a new liaison in training for Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, reaching out to MPOs for projects, and project cost overruns. The committee discussed FDOT employee retirement and vacancy, project list for approval by the Governor, Fowler project, shovel ready projects, and local example of project cost increase.

Agenda Item #8 - *Review and Approval of the Federal and State Transportation Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Federal and State Transportation Priorities which were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He reviewed the priorities. The committee briefly discussed the Fowler project and a possible BUILD grant. Acting Chair Karakos asked for a motion.

Mr. David Willems made the motion to approve the Federal and State Funded Project Priorities. Mr. Sean Kingston seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - Review and Comment on the Updates to the Draft Public Involvement Plan

Ms. Barraco presented this agenda item for the review of and comment on the updates to the Draft Public Involvement Plan which was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). She asked for the committee to email any suggestions or changes to the PIP document to her.

Agenda Item #10 - Review of the Draft FY 2023/2024 through FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review of the Draft FY 2023/2024 through FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement (TIP) which was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Gogoi mentioned the Bonita Springs Pauling Lane project and the SR 80 median project would be withdrawn. Mr. Scott noted the SR 80 median project had already been removed. He then provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed here: [TIP DRAFT PRESENTATION](#). The updated TIP Draft version reviewed at the meeting can be found at the following link: [Updated TIP Draft](#). The committee discussed funding issues, possible issues with projects due to the debt ceiling, example of the FY 2024 Fort Myers Carbon Reduction project, FY 2024 projects locked in due to funding in budget approved, and possible impact on discretionary or non-approved funding.

Agenda Item #11 - Candidate Projects for TA/SU/CARU Multimodal Funds and Preliminary Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this informational agenda item on the candidate projects for TA/SU/CARU Multimodal funds which were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Candidate Projects](#). The committee discussed the current speed limit in the San Carlos Boulevard project area, traffic and congestion in that area, SUN Trail and possible feasibility study for connections in Fort Myers, proposed ten foot shared use path in Midtown project, Daniels project, Coconut project, Forum project, possible roundabouts in downtown Fort Myers, funding, right-of-way needed, requirements, SUN Trail call for projects in June, providing connectivity of SUN Trail to Collier, and presentation by Volkert consultant at next City of Fort Myers Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.

Other Business

Agenda Item #12 - Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #13 – Announcements

Mr. Ian Sikonia mentioned the public comment period for the RSW Master Plan Phase IV that was on their website and running through May 18.

Agenda Item #14 - Topics for next meeting

Topics suggested for the next meeting included the remainder of the priorities for approval, a presentation on Bonita/US 41 alternatives, and the final TIP for approval.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: [TAC May 4, 2023](#)

*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.