

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Thursday, January 4, 2024  
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 9:30 a.m. by Vice-Chair Laura Dodd.

### Roll Call

Those present introduced themselves. The roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum. Those members in attendance included Rick Burris with Lee County Department of Community Development; Ian Sikonia with Lee County Port Authority; Clarissa Marino Diaz with LeeTran; Laura Dodd with the City of Cape Coral; Anthony Palermo and Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers; David Willems with the Village of Estero; Sean Kingston (9:39 a.m.) with the Collier MPO; and D’Juan Harris with the Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO. Others in attendance included Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; Victoria Peters, Kyle Purvis, and Erica McCaughey with FDOT; an officer with the Cape Coral Police Department; and Andy Getch with McCormick Taylor.

### 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. Clarissa Marino Diaz with LeeTran said she had nothing to report for this meeting but asked if the TAC members had any requests for the report for the next meeting. Vice-Chair Dodd asked for an update for the next meeting on LeeTran’s mobility-on-demand ridership.

### Agenda Item #3 – FDOT Report

Ms. Victoria Peters with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) said she had nothing to report for this meeting. She then introduced FDOT’s Erica McCaughey.

## New Business

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

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

### Agenda Item #5 - \*Election of Officers for 2024

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the Election of Officers for 2024. He said consistent with the TAC bylaws, a Chair and Vice-Chair are to be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. Any voting member or their alternate may nominate another voting member to be an officer and the current voting members of the TAC, who are eligible to serve as officers, were listed on the roster that was included in the staff report and attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He added that Vice-Chair Dodd declined to be elected to Chair.

**Ms. Laura Dodd made the motion to nominate Mr. Carl Karakos as TAC Chair. Mr. Karakos accepted the nomination. Mr. D’Juan Harris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Carl Karakos nominated Mr. Anthony Palermo as TAC Vice-Chair. Mr. Palermo accepted the nomination. Ms. Laura Dodd seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Vice-Chair Dodd restated that Mr. Karakos was elected as TAC Chair, and Mr. Palermo was elected as TAC Vice-Chair.

#### **Agenda Item #6 - \*Review and Approve Amendments to the FY 2024 through FY 2028 TIP**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of Amendments to the FY 2024 through FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Vice-Chair Dodd asked if there was discussion, comment, or a motion for this item. There were no comments or discussion.

**Mr. Ian Sikonia made the motion to approve the Amendments to the FY 2024 through FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #7 - \*Review and Approve Updated Federal and State Priority List**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Updated Federal and State Priority List that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Vice-Chair Dodd noted that SR 78 was a strong priority for Cape Coral. She asked if there were any other comments or questions. Mr. Ron Gogoi noted that SR 730 should be updated to SR 739 in the table. Mr. Scott said he would update the table. Vice-Chair Dodd asked if there were any other questions, comments, or a motion. There were no further questions or comments.

**Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the Updated Federal and State Priority List. Mr. D’Juan Harris seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #8 - Functional Classification and Urban Area Boundary Map Presentation**

Mr. Kyle Purvis with FDOT presented this agenda item on the Functional Classification and Urban Area Boundary Map. The Power Point presentation was included in the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and can be found at the following link: [Functional Classification](#). The committee discussed the classification of Hansen, updates in the City of Fort Myers Comprehensive Plan, funding, coordination with the local jurisdictions, updates to local roads, providing a copy of the presentation to the committee members, example in Collier County, census, public comments on prior urban boundary changes, resolving issues before MPO Board presentation, providing feedback, updating of SR 31, reviewing information and providing feedback to MPO staff, impacts on regional model or level of service, 2050 update model based on context classification, and off system roads. Vice-Chair Dodd thanked Mr. Purvis for his presentation.

#### **Agenda Item #9 - Update on Transportation Bills Filed this Legislative Session**

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the Transportation Bills Filed this Legislative Session. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [Legislative Session](#). The committee discussed who would conduct and pay for the study related to SB

1032, example of other area MPOs possible combining and required report, what legislature thinks of other area MPOs report, dilution of the individual MPOs, Lee and Collier Board reasons for not wanting to combine, final decision resting with the governor, public surveys or interviews as part of study, fair share reports in past, SB 1032 sponsor, lack of funds, development happening faster than anticipated, state statute regarding Federal overriding state, mid-block crossing issues, and providing updates at future meetings.

### **Agenda Item #10 - Information on the FDOT Project Priorities Request**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item on the FDOT Project Priorities Request and reviewed the information and documents that were attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [FDOT Project Priorities Request](#). The committee discussed providing potential projects as soon as possible, reviewing and programming of projects, funding, cost estimates, contingencies, budgeting, updating plans, example of Bonita/US 41, local jurisdictions doing own planning and design, local jurisdictions providing funding matches, and example of SR 82.

### **Other Business**

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

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

### **Agenda Item #12 – Announcements**

Mr. Scott noted there was no TAC meeting in February due to the Joint Lee/Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO Board meeting. Mr. Harris noted the meeting would be held on February 16 at the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

### **Agenda Item #13 - Topics for next meeting**

Topics suggested for the next meeting included the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) draft review and an update on the 2050 zonal data. Vice-Chair Dodd suggested an update on the SS4A project. Mr. Scott said he could add that to the agenda items.

### **Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items**

The information and distribution items included the [FDOT RoadWatch Report](#).

Mr. Karakos asked for an update on the Colonial/Six Mile project. Ms. Peters said she would get the name and contact information of the project manager and send it to Mr. Karakos. The committee briefly discussed bike ped access along the Colonial/Six Mile project during construction, completion date for the Corkscrew project, funding for other area MPOs combining study, possibility of Lee County MPO setting aside funds for study, and email from Vice-Chair Dodd regarding a Cape Coral study with comments requested back by January 12.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.**

**An audio recording of the meeting can be found at the following link: [TAC January 4, 2024](#)**

\*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@leempoc.com](mailto:cbarraco@leempoc.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.