

# MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Held on February 8, 2017

## CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Traffic Management and Operations Committee was held on February 8, 2017 at the Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A, 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, Florida. It was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

### Members Present

Bill Floyd	Lee County Emergency Management
Dominic Konieczki	LCSO
Doug Higgins	Lee County Emergency Medical Services
Jay Anderson	Lee County CTST
Captain Joseph Gideons	FHP
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Roger Lloyd	School District of Lee County
Greg Coggins	Lee County Traffic
Steve Jansen	Lee County DOT, Chair
Susan Hopwood	Lee County DOT-Toll Facilities Section

Those in attendance also included: Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; and Christine Diaz-Pagan with Commuter Services via conference call.

## Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

### Approval of Minutes

#### Agenda Item #1 - \*Minutes from the October 12, 2016 Meeting

Jay Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2016 meeting. Bill Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### New Business

#### Agenda Item #2 - Election of Officers

Ron Gogoi introduced this agenda item to elect officers for 2017.

The TMOC bylaws call for the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year. Any voting member or his alternate may nominate another voting member to be an Officer. Nominees should be primary members who attend meetings on a regular basis and are as follows:

April Russ	Lee County Port Authority
Craig Chandler	City of Sanibel
David Liccardi	City of Bonita Springs
William Corbett	City of Cape Coral
Marinko Gnjudic	City of Fort Myers
Steve Jansen	Lee County DOT
Susan Hopwood	Lee County DOT-Toll Facilities Section
Wayne Gaither	LeeTran
Jim Bjostad	Lee County Emergency Management Program
Douglas B Higgins	Lee County Emergency Medical Services
Roger Lloyd	Lee County School District
Sergeant Patrick O Grady	Cape Coral Police Department
Lt. Dennis Petracca	Lee County Sheriff's Office
Dan Moser	Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee
Jay Anderson	Lee County Community Traffic Safety Team

Any member who would be unable to fulfill the duties of an officer should so state before nominations are taken or notify the staff before the meeting if they are unable to attend. Any alternate member who attends meetings regularly, who would be willing to serve as an officer, may bring a letter to the meeting from his or her agency's director, appointing him or her as the agency's primary TMOC representative (in which case a new alternate member should also be appointed at the same time).

Steve Jansen is the current Chair and Jay Anderson is the current Vice-Chair. The TMOC Bylaws allow officers to serve consecutive terms.

**There was a motion by Susan Hopwood to nominate Steve Jansen to remain as Chair. It was seconded by Bill Floyd and passed unanimously.**

**There was a motion by Dominic Konieczki to nominate Jay Anderson to remain as Vice-Chair. It was seconded by Bill Floyd and passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #6 - Update on the Commuter Services Activity in Lee and Collier Counties**

The FDOT District One Commuter Assistance Service Program's (CAP) Outreach Coordinator, Christine Diaz, called in to provide a power point presentation on the commuter service activity update in Lee County. These activities generally include the Transportation Demand Management practices currently being followed by the local governmental agencies and private companies. She reported she just completed a few events in Collier County that included registering employees, setting up car pools, and encouraging biking. She is currently working with Lee County on the best commuter workplaces and other campaigns. She included partner stats in her power point presentation showing almost 23,000 registered in the District and over 5,000 in Lee County. She has events planned during April Earth Month that will encourage carpooling, walking, biking, and transit.

### **Agenda Item #3 - Report on New Congestion Management Projects for Federal Funds**

Ron Gogoi reported on two projects that are being submitted this year for inclusion in FDOT's 2019 through 2023 Tentative Work Program.

There are two congestion management projects that are being submitted for this years' funding cycle for Lee MPO allocated federal "SU" funds, and inclusion in FDOT's 2019 -2023 Draft Tentative Work Program. One of the projects calls for intersection improvements on McGregor Boulevard at Iona Road and the other is a proposed roundabout at the intersection of Challenger Boulevard and Winkler Avenue. The latter is a high priority project from the MPO's Roundabout Study and already has 30% design plans completed. The application deadline was February 2<sup>nd</sup> and pre-applications for both projects have been submitted to FDOT to evaluate project constructability.

### **Agenda Item #4 - Report on Dangerous by Design Study**

Ron Gogoi reported on the Dangerous by Design Study that ranked the Cape Coral-Fort Myers Urbanized area the most dangerous place to walk based on Pedestrian Danger Index. He provided an explanation of the report at the Committee meeting and also provided the latest statistics on bicycle pedestrian fatalities and injuries in Lee County.

The Dangerous by Design report, that is put out every two years by Smart Growth America, ranked the Cape Coral Fort Myers area the most dangerous place to walk based on their Pedestrian Danger Index (PDI) (the report can be found at <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/M09.pdf>). The PDI takes into account pedestrian fatalities within the urbanized area, population, and the share of local commuters who walk to work. The report was released on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The last report was in 2014 and only included the top 50 urbanized areas. The 2016 report included 104 and this allowed the Cape Coral-Fort Myers Urbanized area to be ranked. Eight of the top 10 areas are in Florida. Part of the reason our area ranked so high is the low number of commuters who walk to work. Mr. Gogoi also pointed out that in the last three years there have been many improvements made in the areas of enforcement, education, and building projects. He then showed charts, put together by Brian Raimondo, of the pedestrian and bicycle injury and fatality trends from 2000 to 2016. Mr. Gogoi also showed per capita comparisons to state and national numbers for both bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Steve Jansen commented that the crash index/matrix for 2015 that was passed out at the CTST meeting and does not have Lee County in the top 10 thus making Lee County ineligible to apply for safety funding. Mr. Gogoi mentioned all of the bicycle pedestrian plans that have been adopted and pointed out that some require updates. He stated there are also bicycle pedestrian projects under construction and in planning phases. He reiterated that there are enforcement, education, and

engineering activities addressing the problems in Lee County. Mr. Gogoi commented that this report may be helpful in using as a leverage to seek discretionary dollars.

## **Old Business**

### **Agenda Item #5 - Report on CTST Intersection Reviews**

TMOC Chair Steve Jansen reported on this agenda item and presented the results of intersection reviews conducted since October of last year. The group did not meet in November or December. The Lee County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) periodically conducts field reviews of intersections for operational, maintenance and safety deficiencies by request. The intersection reviews typically result in recommendations addressing deficiencies which are then transmitted to FDOT and/or the local jurisdictions for action. Mr. Jansen mentioned an intersection review that was conducted on Del Prado and he said they are working with the City of Cape Coral.

### **Agenda Item #7 - Local and MPO Reports on Traffic Operations Projects**

This is not an action item but an update on current MPO and local traffic operations projects.

MPO and local government representatives provided updates on current traffic operations projects. These projects included the Lee MPO Roundabout Study, Lee County managed ATMS Phase II and the Caloosahatchee Bridge IMS project, the Cape Coral Signal Timing Study, etc.

Mr. Greg Coggins from LCDOT Traffic provided an update of the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) project which was funded through a MPO allocated federal dollars and entails placing fiber optic cables in the ground at traffic signals. There will also be some cameras and traffic flow monitoring devices installed. The key roadways that will be covered are Palm Beach Boulevard, McGregor Boulevard, Fowler Street, Winkler Avenue, and Pine Island Road. The next step will be to get a CEI on board and construction will begin in July. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Coggins to elaborate on the Cape Coral roads that were removed. Mr. Coggins said some roads needed to be pulled out to get the project under budget. The County was working with the City of Cape Coral Utilities because they are interested in getting connections to all of their wastewater management plants. Mr. Coggins also provided an update on the Caloosahatchee Bridge IMS project. He said the project will use signs and sensors in conjunction with SunGuide to notify drivers of bridge closures and backups. Steve Jansen said the state has hired Metric Engineering.

Mr. Gogoi spoke on behalf of the City of Cape Coral about a traffic signal study they are conducting.

Mr. Gogoi then provided an update on MPO projects. The Lee County Roundabout Study still had a few components remaining with FDOT evaluating the top 5 roundabout priorities for eligibility of Federal Highway Safety Program dollars. There were only two which met the thresholds and they continue to be evaluated. They include the Michigan Link and the Gunnery/Buckingham roundabouts. He also provided updated cost estimates for the Challenger/Winkler, McGregor/Colonial, and the Periwinkle/Causeway Boulevard roundabouts. Mr. Gogoi reported that a drone took aerial videos of McGregor/Colonial. He experienced some technical difficulty with the drone video he was going to show and Mr. Jansen moved on to report LCDOT projects.

Mr. Jansen discussed a project the county started to study Lee Boulevard and Gunnery Road. He said there are construction projects including the widening of Homestead Road and the Estero Boulevard project.

Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers announced the McGregor utility relocation project will start within the next month or so with an 18-month schedule. After that project, they will resurface McGregor from Poinciana to US 41 and construct a roundabout at Virginia Avenue followed by a realignment of Edison Avenue with another possible roundabout. They are still working with FDOT on the US 41 project for safety improvements. He said they will be starting the Hanson Avenue Extension project that includes two roundabouts with Phase I starting in April and Phase II starting in October.

Mr. Gogoi apologized that he could still not get the drone video to play.

Roger Lloyd with the Lee County School District commented that the Dangerous by Design report caused their phones to be flooded with parents concerned about their child's stop being unsafe. Mr. Lloyd said they spent the next several weeks checking the stops for safety issues. Mr. Jansen said they are working with Tanglewood and Bonita Springs High to improve safety. There was a brief discussion that followed regarding the opening of Bonita High School.

Dominic Konieczki with the Lee County Sheriff's Office announced they have checkpoints and are ticketing at Gladiolus and US 41 and College and US 41. He said they have been working a large number of crashes.

Captain Joseph Gideons with the Florida Highway Patrol said they have also been working a large number of crashes and they are shorthanded.

Mr. Gogoi stated he was ready to show the drone video. The drone footage was taken at McGregor and Colonial between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. and from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Susan Hopwood with Lee County Tolls reported that traffic on the two Cape Coral toll bridges were increasing.

### **Other Business**

#### **Agenda Item #8 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

There were no public comments.

#### **Agenda Item #9 - FDOT Report**

There was no FDOT report.

#### **Agenda Item #10 – Announcements**

Mr. Raimondo announced that the Injury Prevention Coalition (IPC) has a roundabout public service announcement (PSA) for Crystal and Plantation that will be produced in a month. There was a brief discussion that followed about the roundabout.

Mr. Gogoi discussed the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and the need for \$23 million to address the gaps in our area. He introduced the idea of the Coastal Loop to the Committee that will provide a scenic alternative. The MPO is trying to have this added to the priority trail map so that it will be eligible for SUN Trail funding. He also brought up the Downtown River District Feasibility Study which would evaluate a downtown Fort Myers connection to the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, evaluate the feasibility of enhancing existing bike ped facilities on Fowler Avenue,

Evans Avenue and North Tamiami Trail. The scope also includes the feasibility of a pedestrian bridge next to the downtown Caloosahatchee Bridge. Mr. Gogoi said he is hoping to adopt a resolution at the MPO Executive Committee meeting that he can submit to the aide of Representative Caldwell, who along with Senator Benacquisto are the sponsors of this feasibility project for a FY 2017 Appropriations project request. A question was posed as to long range plans to help with traffic crossing the Caloosahatchee. Mr. Gogoi said FDOT states the bridge is still functional for another 20 or 30 years. There was a brief discussion about adding another vehicle lane to the Caloosahatchee Bridge. Mr. Gogoi said there is no point in refurbishing the bridge when it should actually be replaced.

#### **Agenda Item #11 - Topics for next meeting**

The next meeting is April 12, 2017. Mr. Jansen said if there were any topics for next meeting to contact Mr. Gogoi. Mr. Gogoi said that if anyone has a presentation to contact him.

Mr. Gogoi asked if there was anything on Lee County School District Transportation for a presentation and Mr. Lloyd with the School District announced they are replenishing their fleet and had recently purchased 190 buses plus an additional 57. Ms. Hopwood with Tolls asked if Mr. Lloyd needed her business card so they could purchase transponders and Mr. Lloyd said someone else was taking care of that. Mr. Lloyd said the buses will have seatbelts but there is a debate over whether the children will be required to wear them.

#### **Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items**

There were no information/distribution items.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.**