

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE**

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 11, 2017
Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Chair Steve Jansen.

The members introduced themselves. There was a quorum.

Members Present

April Russ	Lee County Port Authority
Bill Floyd	Lee County Emergency Management
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers Engineering
Dan Moser	Lee County MPO BPCC
Douglas Higgins	Lee County EMS
Jay Anderson	CTST
Levi McCollum	LeeTran
Marinko Gnjidic	City of Fort Myers Engineering
Steve Jansen	Lee County DOT
Susan Hopwood	Lee County DOT Toll Facilities
William Corbett	City of Cape Coral Traffic Engineering

Those in attendance also included: Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Jodi Walborn with John Hopkins All Children’s Hospital; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Ben Doan and Karen Miller with GHD; Eric Ortman with Collier MPO; Christine Diaz with Commuter Services via phone; Rachelle Bock with LeeTran.

Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

Agenda Item #1 - *Minutes from the June 14, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Levi McCollum made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jay Anderson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 - Lee County CTST Report

Chair Steve Jansen, who also chairs the Lee County Traffic Safety Team, gave a report on the Lee County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) meeting that was held on September 27, 2017.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on Commuter Services Activity

Ms. Christine Diaz, FDOT District One Commuter Assistance Service Program’s (CAP) Outreach Coordinator, called into the meeting and provided an update on the commuter services activity in Lee and Collier County. There are 20,000 registered commuters in District 1. Of that 4,987 are in Lee County and 2,015 in Collier County.

Agenda Item #4 - Presentation by All Children's Hospital on Assistance Availability for Non-Infrastructure SRTS Program

Ms. Jodi Walborn, Community Educator for Safe Routes to School Region 2 at John Hopkins All Children's Hospital, gave a PowerPoint presentation on assistance available for schools and organizations to undertake non-infrastructure SRTS activities. She provided a background on the role of All Children's Hospital in the Florida Safe Route to School (SRTS) Program and explained her role as the Community Educator here in Southwest Florida. The SRTS Program at All Children's Hospital provides assistance to schools, school districts, local governments, and other non-profit organizations regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety. The program is funded by FDOT and administered through the University of Florida. She said her community engagement efforts include infrastructure review, presentations, walking audits, student travel tally reports, parent survey report, educational activities like games/videos/lecture, grants, and teacher education programs including helmet fitting training. She explained due to reduction in staff, the focus has shifted to training teachers to educate students. She also spoke about the growth of the program and the type of education provided at each grade level. She concluded by stating that their goals are reaching the greatest amount of people on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Agenda Item #3 - City of Fort Myers Project Presentation

Mr. Carl Karakos, with the City of Fort Myers introduced Mr. Ben Doan and Ms. Karen Miller with GHD, the primary consultant on the Edison Avenue Realignment Project. They gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the current alignment, concepts being considered, and other planned projects in the area. There was a brief discussion about the roundabout proposed for Virginia and McGregor. Mr. Gogoi asked if there was money available for the Edison Avenue Realignment Project and the timeframe involved. Mr. Karakos said there was approximately \$3.2 million available for the Realignment, there was additional money set aside for the roundabouts, and a goal to begin the project in January 2018. A discussion followed on the details of the project including possible project phases and acquisition of right of way for the roundabout at Virginia. Ms. Miller discussed the history and need for the project. Mr. Gogoi commented that FDOT would have funding available at some point for Complete Streets projects. Mr. Karakos asked about specifics. Mr. Gogoi said details haven't been released yet. A discussion followed on Complete Streets. Mr. Levi McCollum noted there were bus stops in the area that should be addressed. He noted a route along the entirety of McGregor was in the TDP. Mr. Karakos then discussed the issues with the Winkler Challenger intersection and handed out related information. He presented the changes implemented to correct previous issues. He also reported on the recent citizen complaints regarding the operation of the Challenger and Winkler intersection, and how the City proposes to address the problem. A discussion ensued regarding the intersection and possible solutions to resolve current issues.

Mr. Karakos also provided status updates for the John Yarbrough Linear Park (JYLP) Multi-Use Trail and the Winkler Trail feasibility studies. He added that Jacobs was the consultant on both projects. He said the new segment of the JYLP would run from Colonial up to Hanson. He commented that the construction of the 12' wide trail is expected to be funded with SUN Trail funds. He discussed challenges of the possible 1.8 mile project as well as funding. Mr. Gogoi added that if there is a shortfall in funding, FDOT could possibly find the funds. Mr. Karakos said if the SUN Trail application deadline for construction funds isn't met, they will submit next year. There was a discussion on the purpose of the trail and its alignment. Mr. Karakos then reported on the Winkler Trail feasibility study noting that three alternatives are being explored. He added the first public meeting would probably be in January. Lastly, he provided a status update on the Hanson Street Extension from Veronica Shoemaker to Ortiz, stating Phase One, which consists of improvements in the vicinity of the golf course, would be completed by the end of October. He added that Phase Two, which includes two roundabouts, was delayed due to Hurricane Irma.

Agenda Item #5 - MPOAC Priority Policy Positions on State Legislation

Mr. Ron Gogoi stated he would not go into detail on this agenda item, noting he would cover it as part of the MPO project update item. He asked if any of the local governments had updates on their projects they would like to share.

Agenda Item #9 - Local and MPO Reports on Traffic Operations Projects

Mr. William Corbett with the City of Cape Coral discussed their SUN Trail funded LAP project for a 12 foot wide multi-use trail, running on Kismet Parkway, El Dorado and Van Buren Parkway. He said they are using VHB, teaming up locally with GradyMinor, as the design consultant. He added that the ranking recommendations went before the selection advisory committee last month, and will be going to City Council shortly. He noted the project should start early next year. He said the LAP funded signal timing study, being done by FTE consultants, should be completed by the end of the year.

Lee County DOT reported that ATMS Phase Two is moving slowly. Mr. Gogoi asked about the Incident Management System on the bridge. Mr. Jansen said that they are waiting on FDOT's consultant, Metric Engineering, to put together the protocols. Mr. Murphy reported that Burnt Store 4-lane widening will be going out to bid shortly, Alico Road extension will be bid out sometime next year, and Ortiz will be going out for consultant selection this year.

Mr. Gogoi presented a slide on the five performance measures for safety projects. He commented that FDOT will be releasing targets based on Vision Zero that will directly affect Lee County. He added that the targets were supposed to be out by August 31, 2017, and the MPO has a deadline to submit their targets by February 2018. Mr. Gogoi said this will also impact the update of the Bike Ped Safety Action Plan. Mr. Gogoi also discussed the possible candidate projects for SUN Trail funds.

Agenda Item #6 - Discussion on the Priority Trails Map Update and Transmittal of Comments to FDEP

Mr. Gogoi then discussed the FDEP Draft Priority Trails Map Update involving Lee County. He noted FDEP's Final Draft Priority Trails Map for the Southern Region includes Lee County. He said there is an opportunity map and a priority map. He noted the Seminole Gulf Railroad (SGLR) alignment has been removed from the Draft Map by FDEP. This is in direct conflict to language in the Lee MPO Board resolution adopted in February 17, 2017 which had urged the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to **(1) add the proposed Coastal Loop to the Priority Trails Map while (2) maintaining the SGLR Right of Way** as the primary spine for the Southwest Coast Connector (aka Gulf Coast Trail) in Lee County, and thereby continuing to maintain that alignment in the Priority Trails Map. He asked the committee to send written comments on the Draft Priority Trails Map to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through December 15th and attend the meeting in North Port on October 26, 2017.

Next, he reported on the policy positions of the MPOAC. He said the statewide MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) provides a forum for transportation decision making for the 27 MPOs in Florida and their transportation partners. Every year the MPOAC adopts and prioritizes policy positions that they can support and help push through the state legislation for the following year. Their policy positions for 2018 were attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Gogoi addressed and explained some of the positions including the relation to the TRIP funds.

Mr. Gogoi asked if the committee was still agreeable with the current meeting time of 1:00 p.m. The committee as a whole seemed to indicate that the time was good.

Agenda Item #8 - Report on the CTST Intersection Reviews

Steve Jansen reported on the CTST Intersection Reviews earlier in the meeting.

Agenda Item #10 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. Gogoi asked if the committee was still agreeable with the current meeting time of 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The committee as a whole seemed to indicate that the time was good.

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran Report

Levi McCollum with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said ridership was down about three percent in August. He said the Summerlin Square Park and Ride will be opening at the end of the year. He added that the Ride LeeTran app can be downloaded now as it is up and running.

Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report

D’Juan Harris with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He said that there was a public hearing held the day before on the Pedestrian Safety Project on US 41 between Winkler and SR 82. He added that it should be under construction in the fall of 2018.

April Russ with Lee County Port Authority reported that the Skyplex Boulevard project will be bid out next year, the Gartner Complex is being constructed, construct improvements on Paul J. Doherty, and Chamberlin Parkway is being evaluated for rehabilitation. There was a brief discussion on the requirements of the Port Authority with respect to public workshops and cycling/walking safety concerns. She added that the Port Authority employee shuttle bus will be co-located with the LeeTran bus stop. Ms. Russ also stated they are under contract negotiations with Uber and Lyft.

Agenda Item #13 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #14 - Topics for next meeting

A committee member suggested the topic of a study to explore roundabouts or other plans to alleviate congestion on Corkscrew.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.
