

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE**

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2017
Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Jansen at approximately 1:05 p.m.

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
Levi McCollum	LeeTran
Lt. Dennis Petracca	Lee County Sheriff's Office
Marinko Gnjidic	City of Fort Myers Engineering
Nancy Crocker	Lee County School District
Steve Jansen	Lee County DOT

Those in attendance also included: Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver; and Christine Diaz with Commuter Services via phone.

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Item #1 - *Approval of the October 11, 2017 TMOC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bill Floyd made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2017 TMOC meeting. Lt. Dennis Petracca seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 - *Endorsement of SRTS Projects

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item on the endorsement of SRTS projects. He said in response to FDOT's call for proposals for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure funds, the School District of Lee County is submitting three applications. He noted they have changed the original priority order for the proposals based on the BPCC comments from its November 28th meeting. He listed and reviewed the following school district priorities with maps:

Priority #1: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Bonita Springs Elementary located in Bonita Springs. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Shriver Avenue from Dean Street to Ragsdale Street. Cost: \$163,130

Maintaining Agency: City of Bonita Springs

Priority #2: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Island Coast High located in Cape Coral. The proposed sidewalks are on both sides of Averill Boulevard from Del Prado Boulevard to Gator Circle South and along the perimeters of South Gator Circle. Cost: \$1,708,516

Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

Priority #3: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Edison Park Elementary located in Fort Myers. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Clifford Street from Edison Avenue to Victoria Street. Cost: \$167,963

Maintaining Agency: City of Fort Myers

Mr. Bill Floyd made a motion recommending swapping the priority order between the Edison Park Elementary and the Island Coast High so that Edison Park Elementary was #2 and Island Coast High #3. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Report on a Fort Myers Study Identifying Existing School Zones

Mr. Carl Karakos reported that the study that will be contracted out to upgrade existing speed reduction signs in school zones with flashing beacons. He explained FDOT has changed its standards for school zones, and they have also informed MPO staff that state funds may be available for local governments for doing some upgrades at existing school zone locations. He said with that in mind, the City of Fort Myers will be doing a study to identify existing school zones at 20 locations. He added the identification will include school zones with existing static school zone speed limit signs, school zones with existing flashing beacon speed limit signs, and school zones with pavement markings only. Mr. Karakos said if existing sign locations are indicated, replacement signs will be provided, and the municipality will be responsible for installation. He noted the new signs are \$3,000 each so that will be a huge savings to the City. Chair Jansen commented that Lee County turned their information in. Mr. Gogoi said they are encouraging all local governments in Lee County to turn requests in, and that FDOT has extended the request deadline now to June 2018. There was a brief discussion on the sign requests submitted by the County and other municipalities that had been contacted.

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Gogoi asked Chair Jansen to move to Agenda Item #3.

Agenda Item #3 - *Recommendation on Safety Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the recommendation of the safety performance measure targets. He reviewed FDOT's safety targets, that were attached to the agenda packet, for all five national safety measures. He listed the safety performance measures:

1. Number of Fatalities
2. Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Number of Serious Injuries
4. Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

He noted the MPOs are required to adopt Safety Performance Measure Targets by February 27, 2018 in order to meet new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. He added FDOT has adopted zero as their target for each of the performance measures listed above although they are not calling it Vision Zero. He commented each of the MPOs have until February 27, 2018, to accept the FDOT targets or develop their own targets. He stated MPO staff recommends adopting FDOT's safety target of trending toward zero. Mr. Gogoi noted that some have commented this is not a realistic expectation, but everyone agrees it forces us to work toward decreasing fatalities. He mentioned Lee

County's fatality trend has been increasing. He reviewed the statewide fatality and injury statistics for all of the Counties in Florida, that were also attached to the agenda packet, mentioning the 5-year rolling average for Lee County. Mr. Gogoi asked for a recommendation from the committee. Chair Jansen mentioned the importance of education and enforcement, questioning if funding would be available to enhance those programs as well. Mr. Gogoi noted the challenge will be statewide. Mr. Karakos commented that along with a goal, should come a reasonable way to achieve the goal. There was a brief discussion on realistic ways to decrease the trend and address the measures. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that almost every project has a safety component. A brief discussion followed on the importance of education to achieving greater safety. Mr. Karakos discussed Complete Streets. Mr. Brian Raimondo explained the grass roots effort being started by Lee Health's Syndi Bultman to cut down fatalities. He added she is soliciting help from local groups including the MPO committees and law enforcement.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to recommend adopting FDOT's safety target of trending toward zero. Lt. Dennis Petracca seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on Commuter Services Activity

Ms. Christine Diaz, via conference call, gave an update on commuter service activity in Lee and Collier Counties. She noted they are working with 33 organizations in Lee County. She added they are in the process of identifying new contacts and updating information for the employer program. She mentioned several of the groups they are working with including Kaiser and Lee Clerk of Courts. She said they will be targeting Collier County in February. She discussed a Park and Ride resource guide that will be available in January. She also announced a year in review newsletter that will be out soon. She added, for 2018, they have a new campaign starting. There were no questions. Mr. Gogoi thanked Ms. Diaz.

Agenda Item #4 - Input on Traffic Calming Measures on McGregor Boulevard

Mr. Carl Karakos presented this agenda item for input on traffic calming measures on McGregor Boulevard. He presented a Power-Point slide show that was also given to Fort Myers City Council. He discussed the current problems on McGregor, existing conditions, latest traffic counts, and options. He added as part of the repaving, five of the existing medians that had to be removed during the utility improvements will be restored. He commented the Council members voted against any new proposed medians to slow down traffic or any mid-block crossings, but they recommended looking at other ways to reduce speed. He explained slowing down traffic is also going to help motorists from side streets to McGregor who are faced with sight distance issues as a result of the existing trees. He asked if the committee had suggestions for traffic calming measures that the City could consider that would not require separate studies. There was a discussion about reducing the speed, how cyclists fare on this road, and laws regarding passing cyclists. The discussion continued on the safety and issues of adding sharrows. Mr. Karakos asked if there were any suggestions on how to slow down traffic. A committee member commented that may not be a good idea. A discussion followed on the current speed of the road. A committee member suggested landscaped islands. Another suggestion was made to install speed tables. Mr. Karakos said this was an update, and he would pass any comments on.

Agenda Item #5 - Review and Discuss Candidate Projects for TA and Multi-Modal Box Funds for 2018 Funding Cycle

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review of the candidate projects for consideration of MPO allocated TA and SU Box funds for the 2018 funding cycle, attached to the agenda packet and shown on slides. He explained both types of funding and reviewed lists that include most of the unfunded priorities from this year, as well as some new projects. Mr. Gogoi mentioned one project that was not

on the list as it was a new project, the Winkler turn lane at Colonial. Mr. Karakos further discussed this project showing slides as well. The committee briefly discussed this project.

Agenda Item #8- Lee County CTST Report

A CTST report was provided by Chair Jansen.

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

Mr. Gogoi introduced Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver. Mr. Blain discussed the projects his company is currently working on including an accessibility study for LeeTran. He passed out a flyer on a community working group workshop in January.

Mr. Gogoi then asked for committee input on the intersection of Treeline and Daniels and the two-stage left turn bicycle boxes proposed to be installed there. He said Tallahassee has now approved the concept and when installed this will be the first of its kind in Florida. Although it is not a requirement the Lee MPO has volunteered to do a before and after study. Mr. Gogoi said video cameras will be used to conduct this study. The committee suggested conducting the study in season, March or April. Mr. Gogoi said the Caloosa Riders have a planned ride on Wednesday mornings. He added they will use the cameras on Saturday and Sunday from 7:30-3:30 and 7:30 to 10:30 on Wednesdays. The committee discussed using the cameras during spring training and around Easter.

Ms. April Russ announced a bike rack was added in the long-term parking lot at the airport. Mr. Gogoi asked how many bicycles they can accommodate. Ms. Russ replied five. Ms. Russ reported that there will be a bicycle lane on Chamberlain Parkway with the new Gartner Group construction that will be accommodating bicycle parking in its facility.

Mr. Karakos handed out a sketch of the proposed roundabout at McGregor and Virginia intersection. He discussed how this would impact the Edison Home crossing and mentioned a proposal to address that by widening the crossing so that more people can cross when the ped signal was green.

Chair Jansen mentioned the traffic signal was completed at Heron's Glen in North Fort Myers. He also mentioned the traffic signal at Corkscrew and Bella Terra was turned on. He said there is a signal going under construction for Ben Hill Griffin and Grandezza at the Everblades entrance. Mr. Karakos asked about the drainage improvements along Corkscrew. A committee member said it was a utility project. Chair Jansen mentioned the SR 82 project widening has started. There was a brief discussion on the School District request for a pedestrian bridge at the intersection of SR 82 and Griffin.

At the request of Mr. David Murphy, Mr. Gogoi mentioned the Bonita Springs requests for feasibility studies on a shared use path on Bonita Beach Road and Imperial Parkway. Mr. Gogoi said these projects have issues including the road ownership (it is owned by Lee County), right of way and drainage issues. Mr. Murphy explained that the County feels these projects should be removed from the list until they can meet with the City of Bonita Springs to discuss this. Chair Jansen asked about the study for US 41/Six Mile/Gladiolus. Mr. Gogoi said MPO staff urged FDOT to program the project when they met with FDOT to review and comment on the draft Work Program. FDOT later reported that they could not carry out the MPO requests as they have closed the work program cycle. Chair Jansen questioned why the project is never added since he has been requesting it for years now.

Mr. Karakos mentioned a study done regarding removing traffic signals downtown. He said he thinks the recommendation will be to remove some. He deferred to Mr. Marinko Gnjidic. Mr. Gnjidic said five.

Other Business

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

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

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran Report

There was no LeeTran report.

Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report

There was no FDOT report.

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #14 - Topics for next meeting

There were no topics suggested for next meeting.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included in the packet were the MPOAC Legislative Update and the 2018 Meeting Calendar. Mr. Blain handed out a public meeting flyer. Mr. Karakos handed out a project sketch.

Chair Jansen said the next meeting was in February 2018.

Mr. Gogoi apologized for the technical difficulties that they had to go through during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.