

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE**

10:00 a.m., May 12, 2021
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
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Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order

The virtual Zoom meeting recording was started at approximately 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jay Anderson called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call/Introductions

The committee members introduced themselves. Roll was recorded by MPO staff and the Zoom platform. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Allison Evanitz	Commute Connector
Bill Walker	Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee
David Wheaton	Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee
David Willems	Village of Estero
Ian Sikonia	Lee County Port Authority
Jay Anderson	Lee County Community Traffic Safety Team
Rick Anglickis	Citizen Advisory Committee
Roger Lloyd	Lee County Schools Transportation
Steve Jansen	Lee County DOT
Susan Drotleff	Lee County Tolls
Tessa Heines	Cape Coral Public Works Traffic Engineering

Others in attendance included: Ron Gogoi, Don Scott, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; Pam Hughes with Lee County Schools Transportation; Matthew Leger with Studio Plus; and Patrick Bateman and Victoria Peters with FDOT.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

Agenda Item #4 - Review of March 10, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Ron Gogoi introduced this agenda item for the review of the March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes. He said that all action items could be brought back and ratified at the next in-person meeting. There were no corrections suggested to the minutes.

Mr. Steve Jansen made the motion to approve the March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Steve Jansen seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4a – Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Gogoi explained that Mr. Mike Cook had agreed to be the temporary Chair of the TMOC in the interim before a permanent Chair for the current term chosen. Mr. Gogoi further commented that Mr. Jay Anderson had agreed to be the permanent Chair for the remainder of the term. Mr. Gogoi asked for a formal nomination. Mr. Anderson asked if there were other nominations for the Chair position. There were none.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to nominate Mr. Jay Anderson for the position of Chair of the TMOC. Mr. Steve Jansen seconded the nomination. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Anderson then asked for a nomination for Vice-Chair of the TMOC. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Karakos if he would be Vice-Chair of the TMOC. Chair Anderson asked Mr. Karakos if he would accept the Vice-Chair position. Mr. Karakos agreed. Chair Anderson asked for a nomination.

Mr. Dan Moser made the motion to nominate Mr. Carl Karakos for the position of Vice-Chair of the TMOC. Mr. David Willems seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Due to technical and audio difficulties, the committee moved on to Agenda Item #6 to allow additional time to resolve the issues with Agenda Item #5.

Agenda Item #6 - SR 31 PD&E Study Presentation

Mr. Patrick Bateman with FDOT presented this agenda item on the SR 31 PD&E Study. He provided a brief Power Point presentation that included slides on the study area, the need for the project, proposed improvement, existing conditions, selected alternative segments one through four, evaluation matrix, project costs, public hearing, and contact information. Mr. Bateman asked if there were any questions. His entire presentation can be viewed here: https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-428917-1-SR-31-PDE-Lee-MPO_TMOC.pdf The committee commented on the merit of the project and the need for the project. Mr. Gogoi asked if Mr. Bateman could give his second presentation on the US 41/Bonita Beach Road PD&E Study after Mr. Leger's presentation for Agenda Item #5. Mr. Bateman agreed. Mr. Gogoi thanked Mr. Bateman and asked Mr. Leger to begin his presentation.

Agenda Item #5 - Pedestrian Mall Update

Mr. Matt Leger presented this agenda item as an update on the Hendry Street Pedestrian Mall. Mr. Leger gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the pedestrian mall concept, conceptual drawings of key intersections along Hendry Street, Midtown connection, transport connection, destination connection, benefits, and Midtown vision priorities. Mr. Leger asked if there were any questions. His entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-5-Hendry-Street-Pedestrian-Study-4.22.pdf> The committee briefly discussed general feedback and progress of the project concept, scope of work and incorporation into the Midtown project contract, examining existing conditions, building requirements along Edwards Drive and possible elevation of sidewalk to entice development, looking at parallel streets in either direction for connectivity, creation of the two way pairs of First and Second Streets, rerouting traffic on MLK, project limits, ensuring racial and social equity throughout project, low income housing, cost estimates, feasibility study, and including public art. Chair Anderson thanked Mr. Leger for his presentation. Mr. Gogoi asked if the committee could return to Mr. Bateman and his presentation of Agenda Item #6a. Chair Anderson agreed.

Agenda Item #6a – US 41/Bonita Beach Road PD&E Study Update

Mr. Bateman provided a Power Point presentation on the US 41 at Bonita Beach Road PD&E Study. Mr. Bateman's presentation included slides with information on the project overview and the study schedule. Mr. Bateman asked if there were any questions. His entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8a-US-41-at-BBR-Project-Update.pdf> The committee briefly discussed the county preference for the overpass and reasons, the decision process for choosing a final project, funding, maintenance, and ensuring Federal process is followed to qualify for Federal funding.

Agenda Item #7 - Report on New Funding Opportunities

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item on New Funding Opportunities. He provided a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on an overview of the funding opportunities, eligibilities, and uses of funding. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Sikonia if he had any information on the allocation of funds that the Lee County Port Authority would be receiving from the American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. Sikonia said he would check on the information and bring back to the committee. Mr. Gogoi continued his presentation with information on the American Jobs Plan and the re-authorization of the FAST Act. He asked if there were any questions. There were none. His entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-Funding-Opportunities.pdf>

Agenda Item #8 - Update on the MPO Board Caloosahatchee Bridge Pedestrian Facility Discussions

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the MPO Board Caloosahatchee Bridge Pedestrian Facility Discussions. Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on overview of the project, project options, bridge replacement evaluation, 2021 Federal and State Priorities table, and LRTP Amendment. He asked if there were any questions. Mr. Gogoi referred to the switchback ramp and the three structural options. Mr. Scott further explained the graphics for those items. Mr. Scott also mentioned the connection of the Cape Coral SUN Trail project with JYLP and this project providing possible alternatives for that connection. Chair Anderson thanked Mr. Scott for his presentation. Mr. Scott's entire presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-US-41-Caloosahatchee-Bridge-Pedestrian-Infrastructure.pdf>

Agenda Item #9 - Discussion on the Damaged Pedestrian Bridge on Richmond Avenue

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for discussion on the Hurricane Irma damaged pedestrian bridge on Richmond Avenue over the Able Canal. He reported that Lee County was awarded a SRTS grant for replacing the bridge and also construction of sidewalks that will provide access to Lehigh Elementary. Design is funded in FY 2023 and construction in FY 2025. He also reported that the County was awarded a grant in the beginning of this year from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program to replace the pedestrian bridge. The committee discussed current bridge conditions, safety issues for children crossing the bridge to the school, ensuring the bridge design includes connectivity to existing sidewalks on both sides of Able Canal, clarification that the project includes replacing the pedestrian bridge and not the vehicular bridge, funding, timeline for construction, reasons for delay on replacement, prior bridge and ownership, and maintenance. Mr. Gogoi's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Items-9-and-10-Richmond-Bridge-and-Legislative-Session.pdf>

Agenda Item #10 - Report on the Significant Transportation Related Bills Passed in the 2021 Legislative Session

Mr. Gogoi and Mr. Scott presented a report on the significant Transportation related Bills Passed in the 2021 Legislative Session. A Power Point presentation was provided with several slides on the significant legislative bills that passed and those that did not. Slides four and five at the following link contain the presentation information: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Items-9-and-10-Richmond-Bridge-and-Legislative-Session.pdf> The committee briefly discussed the bill banning the use of hand held wireless devices while driving (this bill did not pass) and classification on speeds of roadways where slow speed autonomous delivery vehicles (Delivery BOTs) are allowed as part of the bill that was passed by the Legislature.

Agenda Item #11 - Local Agency/MPO Updates

Ms. Allison Evanitz with the Commute Connector program of FDOT provided a Power Point presentation that contained slides with information on an overview of the program, history of the program, stakeholders – planning agencies and top takeaways, services provided, Commute Connector platform, regional van pool program, employer services, LeeTran advertising, trip data from Lee County, and staff contact information. Ms. Evanitz asked if there were any questions. There were none. Her presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-10-Lee-County-MPO-updates-532021-updated.pptx> Chair Anderson asked if there were any other reports or agency updates. Mr. Jansen commented on the Corkscrew widening project commencement.

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

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

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

Chair Anderson asked if there were any comments or announcements. Mr. Gogoi noted the July meeting would be cancelled due to local governments recessing for the summer. Chair Anderson commented that the next meeting would be September 8th and hopefully in-person.

Agenda Item #14 - Topics for next meeting

Chair Anderson asked for suggestions on topics for the next meeting to be emailed to Mr. Gogoi.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and/or distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be found here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/05-12-2021-tmoc>

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