

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Fort Myers Collaboratory

2031 Jackson Street,

Fort Myers, FL 33901

**10:00 a.m.**



## **Meeting Minutes**

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### **Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Carl Karakos called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 a.m.

### **Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call/Introductions**

The committee members introduced themselves. Roll was recorded by MPO staff. There was a quorum.

### **Members Present**

Albert O'Donnell	Lee County MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee
Alisha Cody	Cape Coral Police Department
Bill Floyd	Lee County Emergency Management
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
David Willems	Village of Estero
Dominic Konieczki	Lee County Sherriff's Office
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jillian Scholler	Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT)
Kristi Neroni	Fort Myers Police Department
Mike Cook	Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District
Pam Hughes	Lee County Schools Transportation Services
Susan Drotleff	Lee County DOT - Tolls
Teresa Lewis	Lee County MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee

Others in attendance included: Ron Gogoi, Don Scott, and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Michelle Peronto, Patrick Bateman, Charlene Ross, and Steven Davis with FDOT; and Arlinda Karuli with Commute with Enterprise.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Approval of March 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Mike Cook made the motion to approve the March 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Teresa Lewis seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #5 - \*Approval of the Scope for SS4A funded Countywide Safety Action Plan**

Mr. Don Scott gave a summary of the tasks in the scope of the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. He mentioned that MPO Planning funds may be used to complete the public involvement tasks to allow all the grant funds to be spent on the crash analysis and development of strategies, projects and programs.

The project completion date is March 31, 2025 but it could be completed earlier. In response to a call for comments, Mr. David Williams suggested adding driver behavior to the list of contributing factors that will be used in the crash analysis. In response to questions Mr. Scott clarified that the project would be advertised to select a consulting team made up of a primary consultant and subs, that projects coming out from this Plan must have support from the local governments, and that local governments would be responsible for implementation of the projects within their jurisdiction, and that they can tap into implementation grants which would require a local match. Public outreach as part of this project could piggyback on a local government's public involvement events for an ongoing project.

The scope was included in the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and pulled up for viewing at the meeting.

**Mr. David Willems made the motion to approve Safe Streets for All Scope. Mr. Mike Cook seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #6 - District One Van Pool Program Update**

Ms. Michelle Peronto, with FDOT, and Ms. Arlinda Karuli, with Commute with Enterprise, provided an overview of the FDOT District One Commute Connector and Van Pool Program. Ms. Terry Lewis commented that twice as many women in Lee county did not own cars than men and they had child responsibility and she asked how could van pool program help transporting kids to school. Ms. Peronto mentioned that it would not work for everyone, but a van pool could accommodate a child if the mother is the designated driver and as long as the child did not take the seat of a participant. She also mentioned the MacDill Air Base which has a childcare facility for the employees. To a question on CDL requirements and incentivizing individual drivers who is getting paid to drive 3 people to leave their older vehicles and use the new vehicles from the van pool program, Ms. Peronto replied that the biggest vehicle is a 15 passenger van, and a driver did not require a CDL license, only a 5 year US license with no more than 3 moving violations. They had been turned away by some businesses because they paid a driver to drive employees and that it was a side business for them, and that they had more luck with companies where a person is willing to drive for the group because the driver gets a new SUV, can take it home, and use it for 200 miles of personal use. She also mentioned that reporting van pool data to FTA generates Section 5307 funds and that for the first time Section 5307 apportionments of Florida transit agencies in FY 2024 have actually seen an increase because of it. Leetran is the beneficiary of van pool data in Lee County. The van pool program update presentation can be viewed at the following link: [District One Van Pool](#).

### **Agenda Item #7 – ATMS and Signal Preemption Updates**

Ms. Jillian Schiller, with Lee County DOT, provided an overview of the planned ATMS Phase III and provided an updated cost estimate. To a question by Mr. Al O'Donnell she replied that the County prefers owning and not sharing fiber optic cables to protect against threats to cybersecurity such as hacking into the traffic signals and Dynamic Message Signs. Mr. Gogoi reported that MPO staff will be funding the design phase in FY 2029 with Carbon Reduction Program funds. That would allow the County to advance local funds and complete the design sooner and then recoup the funds in FY 2029.

Ms. Schiller also provided an overview of the proposed Countywide Signal Preemption in Lee County using Centracs Priority Software. Existing pre-emption system do not support transit signal priority and uses Opticom at select intersections to force green phase for emergency vehicles from the Iona McGregor and South Trail Fire Districts. Back to back pre-emptions can knock signals out of coordination in a busy corridor like Daniels by as much as 30 minutes causing heavy congestion. She then went on to explain the merits of the Centracs Priority which is a systemwide pre-emption and stated that the County can build the system in phases. Her presentation can be viewed at the following link: [ATMS/Signal Preemption Updates](#)

To question from Al O' Donnell, Ms. Schiller replied that

Costs have not been off set with the benefits Benefit costs would be off the charts. RRFBs are not connected to signals and pedestrians and motorists have to yield to

In consideration of time, Mr. Gogoi asked to move to Mr. Patrick Bateman's Agenda Item #8, and then return to the second half of Agenda Item #7, FRAME updates from FDOT's Steven Davis. Those in attendance agreed by consensus to this agenda change.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Presentation on the SR 78/Bayshore Road Capacity Study**

Mr. Patrick Bateman, with FDOT, presented the SR 31 and SR 78/Bayshore Road Capacity Study. He explained the proposed improvements to the SR 80 and SR 31 intersection which includes a EB and SB left turn flyovers facilitated by a crossover signal to the north. Left turns at the intersection are only allowed for entering Publix. He also explained the traffic control devices and their alternates being considered at various intersections along the corridor including conventional traffic signal, Partial Displaced Left Turn, Continuous Green T, MUT, Thru Cut and roundabouts where there were 2 and 3 lanes only. DDI was proposed at the SR 78 interchange. The speed limit proposed is 40 mph. His Power Point presentation can be found at the following link: [SR 78 Capacity Study](#)

### **Agenda Item #7 continued – FRAME Updates**

Mr. Steven Davis, with FDOT, provided an update and overview of the Lee County FRAME project. Project includes cabinet equipment upgrades and installation of radio devices and LIDAR at 25 US 41 intersections to facilitate communication between Connected Vehicles (CV). LIDAR assists in detection of pedestrians within the intersections which is then communicated to CVs. The project limit is from North Airport Road to Pine Island Road. Construction is under way. Target installation completion in September, and system will be fully operational by end of year. Transit Signal Priority will follow FRAME deployment with the addition of minimum equipment including On Board Units (OBU) in Leetran buses.

Ms. Susan Drotleff enquired about the radio frequency of OBUs in CVs and whether they will interfere with transponders in the vehicles used for toll collection. Mr. Davis stated that radio frequencies could be calibrated to minimize the interference. Ms. Scholler commented that transponders and CV units may be actually required to operate at different frequencies. To a question on aftermarket cost of OBUs to retrofit a non CV, Mr. David said they cost around \$5,000. There is also labor cost for integrating the unit to a vehicle's internal computer and diagnostic system, and adding antennae, but cost are expected to drop when OEMs start building more and more cars with OBUs.

Mr. Davis also provided an overview and update of the Wrong Way Driver Detection project. The countermeasures are already in place in some of the locations in Lee and Collier County. Some have only the monitoring cameras while the rest have both the cameras and flashing signs. His presentation can be viewed at the following link: [FRAME Updates](#). The update of Caloosahatchee Bridge Transportation Management Plan was deferred to the next TMOC meeting in September.

### **Agenda Item #9 - Presentation on the US 41 at Bonita Beach Road PD&E Study**

This item was deferred to the next TMOC meeting in September.

### **Agenda Item #10 - Report on 2023 Lee MPO Priorities**

This item was deferred to the next TMOC Meeting in September.

### **Agenda Item #11 - Local Agency/FDOT/MPO Updates**

As the meeting went past 12 noon, there was no time for Local Agency/FDOT/MPO Updates.

**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**

Mr. Gogoi included the SR 865 public meeting information in the agenda packet, and it was [posted to the MPO website](#).

**Agenda Item #14 - Topics for the next meeting**

Topics suggested for the next meeting included the Caloosahatchee Bridge sidewalk project, a Lee County DOT Tolls presentation, and possible revisitation of deferred agenda items from this meeting.

**Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items**

There were no information and distribution items.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:12 p.m.**

**An audio recording of the meeting can be listened to at the following link: [TMOC 07/12/2023](#)**

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