

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 19, 2020

Virtual Zoom Meeting

www.leempo.com

239-244-2220



Meeting Minutes

The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order by MPO Vice-Chair/Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble at approximately 9:00 a.m., due to Zoom sign-on/technical difficulties at the beginning of the meeting for MPO Board Chair/City of Bonita Councilmember Fred Forbes.

The roll was called by MPO staff. A quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Frank Mann, Brian Hamman, Cecil Pendergrass, and Raymond Sandelli; City of Cape Coral Councilmember John Carioscia; City of Cape Coral Mayor Joe Coviello; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Gaile Anthony, Johnny Streets, Jr., and Teresa Watkins Brown; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Councilmembers Fred Forbes and Laura Carr; and Village of Estero Mayor William Ribble.

Others in attendance included Michael Sherman, Wayne Gaither, Zachary Burch, Lawrence Massey, and Michael Tisch with FDOT; Derek Rooney with GrayRobinson; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, Brian Raimondo, and Calandra Barraco; LeeTran Director Robert Codie; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Allan Makau with Lee County; Charlotte Codie with Lee County; Saeed Kazemi with the City of Fort Myers; Brandy Otero with the Collier MPO; Trinity Scott with Collier County; a member of the public David Urich; a member of the public Diana Giraldo; a member of the public Deborah De Phillips; a member of the public John Majka; a member of the public Deneen Segura; a member of the public Don Eslick; a member of the public Thomas Kanell; a member of the public Denise Diamond; a member of the public Darleen Loef; a member of the public Carl Baxter; a member of the public Maria Pires; Jorge Sotolongo with Graph Code; Alicia Gonzalez and Jorge Valens with MRG; Chelsea Williams with HDR; Katie Habgood with Jacobs; and Kelli Muddle and Kyla Luna with Volkert.

Agenda Item #1 - Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

Vice- Chair William Ribble asked if there were any public comments on Consent Agenda Items. There were none.

Agenda Item #2. *Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the May 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan
- C. Approve the FY 2020 Section 5305 Transit Planning Funds Grant Application
- D. Approve Appointments to the Citizens Advisory Committee

Councilmember John Carioscia made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item

Vice-Chair Ribble noted public comments will be taken at each agenda item.

Public Hearing Item

Agenda Item #4 - ^Adoption of the FY 2020/2021 through FY 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to hold a public hearing on the recommended FY 2020/2021 through FY 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program, make any changes to the recommended Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that the MPO may consider appropriate, taking into consideration public input, and by roll call vote, adopt Resolution 20-07 endorsing the recommended FY 2020/2021 through 2024/2025 TIP. Mr. Scott said the adoption of this TIP will conclude the annual project prioritization and programming cycle that began last spring with the development of the MPO's transportation project priorities. He added inclusion of the projects in the MPO's endorsed TIP is a prerequisite for federal funding of surface transportation projects, and in addition, the public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP will satisfy the program of projects requirements for LeeTran. He said that public comment could be taken after his presentation that would include a brief overview of some of the projects. He mentioned FDOT might not comment based on the ongoing litigation on the north side of SR 80. He then gave a Power Point presentation with slides on overview of the TIP, public comments related to SR 80 projects, map of SR 80 projects area, specific TIP SR 80 project pages, SR 80 project descriptions, impacts of request to flip SR 80 projects, history of SR 80 projects, bike/ped crashes over past five years, and SUN Trail map. Mr. Scott's presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-FY-21-25-TIP.pptx> Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions or comments from the MPO Board. Commissioner Raymond Sandelli commented on his visit to the project area, challenges to bicycling on the north side of SR 80, placing a project for a sidewalk on the north side, and re-engineering the south side to a pathway project. Councilmember Carr commented on the uncertainty of future funding and the possibility of the SR 80 project slipping to the bottom of the list. Mr. Scott noted that it would be re-prioritized. Councilmember Carr mentioned emails she had received on the SR 80 project and questioned whether the public would be content with the project being left for several years. Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT addressed several of the concerns including bicyclists and locals using the facilities especially usage by residents to the north side, proper treatment for all users, considerable amount of existing sidewalk infrastructure in place on the south side, and assisting those on north side from having to cross SR 80. Commissioner Brian Hamman inquired on just filling in the gaps on the north side instead of building a large multi-use pathway. Commissioner Sandelli said he concurred with Commissioner Hamman. Commissioner Sandelli then restated his prior suggestion that there should be a sidewalk on the north side and re-engineered plans for a pathway on the south side. Mr. Gaither explained the purpose of a pathway, and not a sidewalk, on the north was to accommodate bicyclists as well as other users and to allow travel for all users to amenities on the north side. Councilmember Fred Forbes commented on filling in the missing sections on the north side and then re-designing the project on the south side to be a multi-modal path. Mr. Gaither responded that the project is designed and ready to move forward with construction so all prior design work and funding would be wasted. He noted that for a new project to start that would change existing, it would require FDOT to redo the entire project. He added that the LRTP and the BPSAP both requested multi-use pathways on both sides of SR 80. He commented that there is already an extensive amount of sidewalk existing on SR 80. Mr. Scott noted there was public comment. Vice-Chair Ribble asked for Board member microphones to be muted to avoid background noise and then unmuted if they would like to comment. He reminded public speakers that the time limit was three minutes. Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, gave a public comment on his request to change the SR 80 north side project to a sidewalk and the SR 80 southside project to a pathway. His public comment was accompanied with a Power Point presentation that he sent to MPO staff at 8:29 a.m. on June 19, 2020. Mr. Majka's presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Public-Safety-Presentation-RE-SR80-6-19-20.pdf> Ms. Denise Diamond, a member of the public, gave a public comment on her request to place a sidewalk on the north side of SR 80 and a pathway on the south side of SR 80. Ms. Deneen Segura, a member of the public, gave a public comment on her lack of notification of the project as a tenant/owner on the north side of SR 80 and her agreeance with a sidewalk on the north side of SR

80 and a pathway on the south side of SR 80. Ms. Deborah De Phillips, a member of the public, attempted to give public comment but was experiencing technical difficulty. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if Ms. De Phillips could call back. Ms. De Phillips public comment was also emailed to the MPO Board prior to the meeting and posted to the website before the meeting: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-Additional-SR-80-projects-comment-sheets-updated-6-18-4-pm.pdf> Ms. Diana Giraldo, a member of the public, gave a public comment on pedestrian activity and on bicycling along SR 80, pedestrian activity on the north side of SR 80, and that connectivity makes sense for the community. Mr. Scott asked if there were any other public comments. There were none. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if Ms. De Phillips had called back yet. Mr. Scott replied no. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there was a motion. Councilmember Carr asked for clarification on what was being voted on. Mr. Scott said TIP approval was needed but if the MPO Board wanted something that differed from the presented TIP that needed to be brought up. Councilmember Forbes again brought up Commissioner Hamman's idea to fill in with sidewalks on the north side as that would be an immediate improvement and then advocate for a multi-use pathway on the south side in the future. Councilmember Carr mentioned that funding might be short in a few months to switch projects, switching projects might cause nothing to be done, FDOT comment on redesign and back to different stage, and estimated due date. Commissioner Hamman asked Mr. Scott to explain the recommendation of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Mr. Scott explained the CAC recommendation to place an eight foot sidewalk on the north and a twelve foot pathway on the south. Commissioner Hamman questioned if they approved all of the other projects on the TIP. Mr. Scott replied yes, and this means that the SR 80 project would be removed and re-prioritized. Commissioner Sandelli mentioned the cuts caused by the virus and not sure how it would impact the project but was hopeful funds would be available in the next few years. Councilmember Forbes suggested switching the projects would possibly save money. Mr. Gaither noted design was completed, and they are ready to move forward with construction. He pointed out there would be no cost savings but instead a loss of money on the design that was done prior. He added they were in the process of getting the final permit from South Florida Water Management District. Mr. Gaither also mentioned sections of the existing infrastructure on the north will need to be replaced due to poor conditions whereas the existing infrastructure on the south is in good condition. Mr. Gaither noted, with regard to the public comment from Ms. Segura on not receiving a project letter, he would investigate where the project letter was sent if he was provided with an address. Finally, Mr. Gaither addressed the current litigation between FDOT and Mr. Majka regarding his driveway access along SR 80, stating that the case was still open at the request of Mr. Majka. Councilmember Carr clarified the case was on the north side. Mr. Gaither replied yes. Vice-Chair Ribble asked Mr. Scott for direction and the CAC recommendation. Mr. Scott said the projects would need to be redesigned, and the MPO Board could request that the money attributed to the projects could be attributed to be used for the re-design. Vice-Chair mentioned a motion that would address this. Commissioner Pendergrass asked the total cost. Mr. Derek Rooney noted the TIP includes a variety of projects so the motion would be to pass the TIP and pull the SR 80 projects out. Mr. Scott gave the cost figures that Commissioner Pendergrass asked about. Commissioner Pendergrass noted the north side was dense urban. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were other comments or if the MPO Board would like to table the SR 80 projects and approve the rest of the TIP.

Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass made the motion to adopt the FY 2020/2021 through FY 2024/2025 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Commissioner Frank Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with a majority in favor and one opposed. The motion passed.

The draft TIP can be found here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/TIP-FY20-21-through-24-25.pdf>

[Public Comments Made by John Majka](#)

Additional Public Comments made by John Majka - <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-Additional-SR-80-project-e-mails-received.pdf>

Public comments on the SR 80 projects - <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-4-Additional-SR-80-projects-comment-sheets-updated-6-18-4-pm.pdf>

Agenda Item #5 - ^Approval of the FY 2025/2026 Federal and State Funded Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the FY 2025/2026 Federal and State Funded Priorities. He said the Federal and State funded priority list is developed from the projects that are consistent with the projects listed in the first five years of the Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan. Mr. Scott reviewed the priority list that can be found here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/M05.pdf> Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there was discussion on this item. There was none.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the FY 2025/2026 Federal and State Funded Priorities. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - ^Approval of the Multi-modal Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the recommended multimodal priorities for Transportation Alternative and SU Box Funds that were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Gogoi gave a Power Point presentation that included slides on funding type, funding amounts, and recommend projects. Mr. Gogoi also mentioned the City of Fort Myers projects were placed at the bottom of the list due to the City of Fort Myers being behind on several other previous projects. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-Multimodal-Priorities.pptx>

Councilmember Gaile Anthony asked who was behind with regard to Fort Myers. Mr. Gogoi explained that projects from several years ago had not been completed and this could be due to staff turnover. He added that FDOT said once all projects that are behind are completed, then new projects will be considered. Mr. Scott said that Mr. Majka had a comment. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if Mr. Majka had a comment on Agenda Item #6. Mr. Majka replied no, his comment was on deviations.

Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. asked about the time line once projects are funded. Mr. Gogoi explained that agreements are project specific with milestones and project deadlines and the Fort Myers projects went beyond the allowed extensions. Councilmember Johnny Streets Jr. said City Council needs to know where to start to get this resolved. Councilmember Carr asked if the money from the City of Fort Myers projects was available for other projects. Mr. Gogoi said all of the projects are prioritized and this only means the Fort Myers projects won't be considered. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Multi-modal Priorities. Councilmember Laura Carr seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #7 - *Review and Approval of Highway Safety Program Funds

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the recommended priorities for Highway Safety Program funds that were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Gogoi gave a Power Point presentation that included information on this funding sources and the priorities. Mr. Gogoi's presentation can be viewed here:

<https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-Highway-Safety-Program-Priorities.pptx> Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Councilmember Laura Carr made the motion to approve the Highway Safety Program Funds. Councilmember Fred Forbes seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8 - *Review and Approval of the Transportation Performance Measure Consensus Document

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Transportation Performance Measures Planning Document that was attached to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as a slide at the meeting. Mr. Gogoi gave a Power Point presentation that included information on an overview of the document and its purpose. Mr. Gogoi noted that FDOT has asked all MPOs in Florida to adopt this. His presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-TPM-Consensus-Document.pptx> Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Councilmember Fred Forbes made the motion to approve the Transportation Performance Measure Consensus Document. Councilmember Gaile Anthony seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - *Review and Approval of the Lee MPO Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities with the Collier and Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPOs

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the updated Lee and Collier and Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO TRIP priorities that were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the website, and shown as slides at the meeting. He gave a presentation that included information on the Collier and Charlotte-Punta Gorda Regional Priority lists. The priority lists can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/M09.pdf> Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass made the motion to approve the Lee MPO Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities with the Collier and Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPOs. Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Carr asked for the fonts to be larger in the Lee/Collier chart.

Agenda Item #10 - FDOT Presentation on the 2045 Strategic Intermodal System Cost Feasible Plan

Mr. Lawrence Massey with FDOT presented this agenda item on the 2045 Strategic Intermodal System Cost Feasible Plan. Mr. Massey's presentation included slides on SIS explanation/objectives, purpose and FTP goals, SIS planning and programming process, SIS CFP 2045 update process, selection of projects, SIS update/timeline, and Lee MPO candidate projects. Mr. Massey continued his presentation with a further discussion of the Lee MPO projects and the survey. He noted the survey ends on July 5 and said the findings would be brought back in the fall. Mr. Massey showed one additional slide with contact information and said that if anyone would like additional information they could call/email either him or Mr. Tisch. Mr. Massey said the survey would be sent out by MPO staff. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were any questions. There were none. He clarified there was no motion needed. Mr. Scott replied there was none. Mr. Massey's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-11-Draft-CFP-Presentation-Lee.pptx>

Agenda Item #11 - Status of the Long Range Plan Update

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the status on the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. He gave a presentation that included information on LRTP activities, FDOT Regional Transportation Model, Lee County Existing plus Committed Network Map, Lee County Cost Feasible LRTP Alternative 1 improvements map, and Alternative 1 minus E plus C volume map. He also mentioned the virtual public workshop on June 25, 2020. He asked if there were any questions and noted Mr. David Urich wanted to comment. Mr. Scott's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-11-LRTP-Update-1.pptx> Mr. David Urich, a member of the public, gave a public comment on his request to remove the Del Prado Interchange project. His public comment presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Dave-Urich-Presentation.pdf> Mr. Scott then read a public comment emailed to MPO staff from Ms. Lark Campisano, a member of the public, on her concerns relating the Del Prado Interchange project and her request to remove the project. Her comment can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-11-Public-Comment.pdf> Ms. Darleen Loef, a member of the public, gave a public comment on her request to remove the Del Prado Interchange project from the LRTP. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were additional public comments. There were none. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there was any action need on this item. Mr. Scott replied there was none.

Other Business

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

Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were any public comments on items not on the agenda. There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #13 - LeeTran/TD Report

Mr. Robert Codie, LeeTran's Director, gave the LeeTran/Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) report. He said there has been an increase in ridership in the TD program since the change from Phase I to Phase II reopening that coincides with the ADA increase. He noted from the last week of Phase I to the first week of Phase II there is an increase of 80 passengers. He added that many of the TD passengers had been transitioned to the Passport program. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were any questions for Mr. Codie. There were none.

Agenda Item #14 - FDOT Report

Mr. Michael Tisch with FDOT gave the FDOT report. Mr. Tisch mentioned several accomplishments that garnered awards for FDOT including the SR 82/Gunnery Continuous Flow Intersection. He also updated the MPO Board on the other phases of SR 82 with Shawnee to Alabama expected to be completed in late July and Shawnee to the Hendry County line expected to be completed in mid-September this year. Vice-Chair Ribble asked if there were any questions. There were none. Councilmember Carr congratulated FDOT on the awards.

Agenda Item #15 – Announcements

Mr. Scott again announced there would be a virtual public workshop on the Long Range Transportation Plan on Thursday, June 25, 2020. He also said he would forward the newsletter on the Wilson Pigott Bridge FDOT project that will be starting construction the following week.

Agenda Item #16 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Don Scott mentioned the FDOT Source Book data that was included in the packet as an information and distribution item.

Councilmember Laura Carr led the MPO Board virtual meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

The entire meeting audio can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/06-19-2020-mpo>

^Roll Call Vote *Action Items +May Require Action

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.

Addendum to the Minutes:

At the Lee MPO meeting held June 19, 2020 as a part of the “TA AND SU MULTIMODAL BOX FUND PRIORITIES” discussion it was incorrectly suggested that Local Agency Projects (LAP) for the City of Fort Myers are in jeopardy. This is not the case. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is currently working closely with the City of Fort Myers to maintain a schedule to complete existing projects and are in preliminary discussions regarding new projects.