

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
AND THE COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**Held on March 20, 2009**

The following members were present for the joint meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization on March 20, 2009 at the Bonita Springs City Hall, Council Chamber, 9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs Florida.

**Lee County**

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Commissioner Frank Mann         | Lee County District 5  |
| Commissioner Tammy Hall         | Lee County District 4  |
| Commissioner Ray Judah          | Lee County District 3  |
| Commissioner Brian Bigelow      | Lee County District 2  |
| Commissioner Robert Janes       | Lee County District 1  |
| Councilman Warren Wright        | City of Fort Myers     |
| Councilman Randy Henderson      | City of Fort Myers     |
| Councilman Mike Flanders        | City of Fort Myers     |
| Mayor Jim Burch                 | City of Cape Coral     |
| Councilman Bill Deile           | City of Cape Coral     |
| Councilperson Dolores Bertolini | City of Cape Coral     |
| Councilman Peter Brandt         | City of Cape Coral     |
| Councilman Jim Jennings         | City of Sanibel        |
| Councilman Richard Ferreira     | City of Bonita Springs |

**Collier County**

|                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councilwoman Dee Sulick          | City of Naples            |
| Councilman William Willkomm, III | City of Naples            |
| Commissioner Donna Fiala         | Collier County District 1 |
| Commissioner Thomas Henning      | Collier County District 3 |
| Commissioner Frank Halas         | Collier County District 2 |
| Commissioner James Coletta       | Collier County District 5 |

Those also in attendance included: Stan Cann, Johnny Limbaugh, Trinity Caudill-Scott, Richard Shine, Julia Davis and Crystal Gorman of FDOT; David Loveland of Lee County DOT; Steve Myers and Carmen Monroy of LeeTran; Jed Schneck of the Lee County Attorney's Office; Tamika Seaton, Phil Tindall, Lorraine Lantz, and Sue Faulkner with Collier MPO; David Hutchinson with SWFRPC; Chris Swenson with CRSPE, Inc.; Amy Davies, Chris Pecor and Virgil Rook with Wilbur Smith Associates; Heather Mazurkiewicz with the Lee County CAC; Jack Meeker, citizen; Joe Bonness with Collier PAC; Gina Downs with Citizens Transportation Coalition; Michelle Arnold with Collier County ATM; Nick Casalanguida with Collier County Transportation Planning; Norman Feder with Collier County Transportation Services Division; Dave Urich with Responsible Growth Management Coalition; Liane Caruso with QCA; Ron Gogoi, Don Scott and Meghan Marion of Lee County MPO; Scott Teach of the Collier County Attorney's Office; and Barbara Barnes-Buchanan with Lee County TAC.

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Scott of the Lee County MPO.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO NOMINATE COUNCILMAN FLANDERS AS THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE JOINT MARCH 20, 2009 MPO MEETING. SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON BERTOLINI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chairman Flanders asked for a roll call.

## ROLL CALL

Ms. Seaton called the roll for the Collier MPO.

Councilwoman Sulick – present  
Councilman Willkomm, III – present  
Commissioner Fiala – absent  
Commissioner Henning – present  
Commissioner Coyle – absent  
Commissioner Halas – present  
Commissioner Coletta – present  
Councilman Trotter – absent  
Mayor Hamilton – absent

Ms. Seaton announced that Collier MPO did not attain a quorum.

Ms. Marion called the roll for the Lee County MPO.

Commissioner Mann- present  
Commissioner Hall-present  
Commissioner Judah-present  
Commissioner Bigelow-present  
Commissioner Janes-absent  
Councilman Wright – present  
Councilman Henderson – absent  
Councilman Flanders – present  
Mayor Burch – present  
Councilman Deile – present  
Councilperson Bertolini – present  
Councilman Brandt – present  
Councilman Raymond – absent  
Councilman Jennings – present  
Mayor Nelson – absent  
Councilman Ferreira - present

Ms. Marion announced that Lee County MPO did not attain a quorum.

Councilman Henderson arrived at approximately 9:03 a.m. and Ms. Marion announced that Lee County MPO had attained a quorum.

Commissioner Henning arrived at approximately 9:03 a.m. and Ms. Seaton announced that Collier MPO had attained a quorum.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

### Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Topics on the Agenda

Ms. Mazurkiewicz commented on the proposed Lee-Collier Transit Route connection on US 41. She informed the Joint MPO Board that a discussion was held on March 5 at the Joint Lee-Collier CAC meeting on the item hoping that things will come together very soon for a designated funding source.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Re-Order - Agenda Item #4B – Prioritize TRIP Projects for FY 2013 and FY 2014

Mr. Scott presented an overview of the prioritization for the FY 2013 and FY 2014 TRIP projects.

Commissioner Fiala arrived at approximately 9:05 a.m.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE FY 2013 AND FY 2014 TRIP PROJECTS IN THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY ORDER: FROM THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL, \$5 MILLION IN FY 2012/2013 FOR THE RIGHT OF WAY PHASE TWO TO WIDEN SR 78 FROM BURNT STORE ROAD TO CHIQUITA BOULEVARD FROM TWO TO FOUR LANES; FROM LEE COUNTY DOT, \$3,462,500 IN FY 2012/2013 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE TO WIDEN DANIELS PARKWAY BETWEEN CHAMBERLAIN PARKWAY AND GATEWAY BOULEVARD FROM FOUR LANES TO SIX LANES; FROM THE COLLIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DEPARTMENT, \$6 MILLION IN FY 2013/2014 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE TO WIDEN COLLIER BOULEVARD FROM GOLDEN GATE MAIN CANAL TO GREEN BOULEVARD FROM FOUR TO SIX LANES AND \$6 MILLION IN FY 2013/2014 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE TO WIDEN SANTA BARBARA BOULEVARD FROM COPPERLEAF TO PINE RIDGE ROAD FROM FOUR TO SIX LANES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL.**

Discussion ensued regarding TRIP projects. Commissioner Henning asked if the project limits on the Santa Barbara project were correct or was the project limits supposed to stop at Green. Mr. Scott stated that the application had the project limits going up to Pine Ridge but looked for a Collier County representative to confirm. Mr. Casalanguida, Collier County Transportation Planning Director, stated that the limits were up to Pine Ridge Road.

Commissioner Judah asked for the current status of the TRIP funds as the legislature has been raiding these funds for the last couple of years

Mr. Scott stated that the REC makes it look pretty bad for the future, but what our direction was to not keep boxed funds out there in the work program, and to make sure that we show actual projects through the five years. They are showing that these are real projects that are affected when the funding gets cut.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #4A – Approval of the New TRIP Criteria**

Mr. Scott presented an overview of the new TRIP criteria and stated that the TRIP priority was endorsed by both Lee’s and Collier’s committees and was approved by the Lee County MPO Board, but was not approved by the Collier MPO Board.

Mr. Tindall of the Collier MPO stated that there were some concerns about the new criteria for scoring projects and that the MPOs could refine the TRIP criteria at the joint meeting in the fall.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE THE NEW TRIP CRITERIA WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE MADE IN THE FUTURE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #4C – Approve Revisions to the Joint Lee – Collier Regional Transportation Planning and Coordination Agreement**

Mr. Scott presented an overview of the revisions to the Joint Lee-Collier Regional Transportation and Coordination Agreement.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE JOINT LEE – COLLIER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND COORDINATION AGREEMENT. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FIALA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Agenda Item #5A – Update on the Proposed Lee – Collier Transit Route Connection on US 41**

Mr. Scott presented some background information regarding the proposed Lee-Collier Transit connection on US 41 and opened up the discussion for CAT and LeeTran to provide an update on the status of the connection.

Mr. Myers with LeeTran stated that LeeTran was struggling with the local share for the first year of funding, but would like to move the project forward and take it to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Commissioner Bigelow arrived at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Ms. Arnold with Collier CAT stated that the Collier County is moving forward; however, they are also faced with financial constraints. She then informed the Board that the both counties decided to provide two separate routes; Lee County will be providing the same route as Collier County. The route that is being proposed will extend from Immokalee Road in Collier County up to the Coconut Mall in Lee County; two buses for the same route will allow each jurisdiction to implement transit services at their own pace.

Chairman Flanders asked about the timeframe for a draft interlocal agreement.

Mr. Myers responded that once the language of the agreement is agreed on, it could be implemented in about 2 -3 months.

Commissioner Halas asked if the agreement could be instituted after October 2009 once the budgets are approved.

Commissioner Judah asked for Ms. Davies' and Mr. Swenson's input to address Commissioner Halas' concern.

Ms. Davies stated that they have found that there is \$3.2 million in the Economic Stimulus Package set aside for energy efficient projects; however, Mr. Swenson and herself will be traveling to the Governor's office next Friday and will meet with his staff to get an understanding of the application process in order to try to obtain some funding.

Ms. Arnold noted that a bulk of the stimulus money is to be utilized for capital projects and not for operations. She also noted that most federal money requires a local match.

Mr. Scott asked if federal money could be received as a match for other money that requires a local match.

Ms. Davies stated that there is a climate trust fund which pays for operating dollars and that there is an application process; \$8 million has been set aside and \$2.5 million is available for projects.

Commissioner Janes arrived at approximately 9:20 a.m.

Commissioner Judah asked if the climate trust fund money was for the Northeast.

Ms. Davies stated that the funding was not for the Northeast. .

Mr. Hutchinson stated that Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has been monitoring all various opportunities for funding.

Mr. Scott stated that staff will research this item.

#### **Agenda Item #5B – Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Scott gave an update and overview of the LRTP. The mission is to have it adopted by December 3, 2010. He also informed the Board that a LRTP 101 workshop with the consultant will be scheduled to show how the model works and how the LRTP will be developed. The workshop will be opened to the MPO committees, the MPO Boards, and the general public.

Mr. Tindall added that the Lee/Collier Model Coordinating Committee has been inactive for the past couple of years and the MPOs have now re-started regular meetings.

#### **Agenda Item #5C – Presentation on Possible Future Funding for Carbon Reduction**

Ms. Davies gave an overview of the Carbon Reduction presentation.

Mr. Swenson gave some examples of Carbon Reduction.

Mr. Scott provided the Board some information about the green requirements in the proposed SAFETEA-LU replacement legislation named "CLEAN-TEA". He stated that more information about this legislation was provided in the Lee County Board's agenda packet under information items.

Mr. Tindall stated that he would coordinate with Mr. Scott to gather data about CLEAN-TEA and forward to the Collier MPO Board.

Councilman Wright asked about the purpose and value of the carbon reduction.

Mr. Swenson replied to Councilman Wright that the purpose is basically to get funding for transportation projects.

Councilman Wright asked about the downfall of the carbon reduction program.

Mr. Swenson replied that the downfall is that the money is coming out of somebody's pocket.

Commissioner Halas asked the Collier MPO staff and Collier County Transportation Planning Department to research this item and provide the Board a report with the facts, pros and cons of the carbon reduction program and provide it at a future meeting.

Mr. Swenson stated that he did not think that the jurisdictions had a choice as to whether or not they wanted to participate in the carbon reduction program.

### **Agenda Item #5D – 2010 SIS Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Limbaugh gave a presentation on the 2010 SIS Strategic Plan Update.

Mayor Burch stated that it seems to be a state plan to cut back local participation.

Mr. Limbaugh replied that ninety percent of the FIHS highway element is on the SIS plan now, which is what was used for basis for the back bone of the SIS.

Mayor Burch stated that each jurisdiction is under certain requirements to make sure state roads meet certain requirements, and if we are going to be the ones supporting all the maintenance, then the criteria needs to be changed.

Commissioner Halas stated that in the instance of Lee and Collier Counties, we have instituted the maximum five cent gas tax, it seems to be that we are hurt more by doing that, funding is being taken away, and yet there are other counties that haven't mandated the five cent tax and they're the ones getting rewarded.

Mr. Feder stated that the question is where we should be putting our money to meet the state's needs in the future.

Mr. Cann stated that this plan has been established for about five years, and the facilities that are on the list were selected strategically.

Mayor Burch commented that when we are talking about where the state money goes, we need to lobby hard to make sure that the federal highway system be is maintained with federal money.

Mr. Cann replied that we need to continue to encourage the congressional delegation to increase the rate of return on the dollar that is sent up there.

## Other Business

### Agenda Item #6 – FDOT Report

Mr. Cann informed the Board that in March there were two revenue estimating conferences; one transportation revenue estimate conference dealing with gas tax receipts, a reduction in estimate of \$860 million is projected over the five years. In addition, there was also one for general revenue, which affects our TRIP program, and many other projects. FDOT is holding a meeting at Harborside to bring contractors in to go over the types of projects that will be funded by stimulus funds. The Immokalee interchange project will go forward as part of the IROX project since they have come to an agreement on a price. Conversely, including the I-75/Bonita Beach Road project in IROX is not yielding a good price and we are now looking at going out for a better bid price. The IROX project is ten months ahead of schedule and will be completed around April 2010.

Commissioner Halas asked about the completion date of the bridge at Immokalee Road.

Mr. Cann replied that it will be completed in about a year.

Commissioner Henning asked if the state bonds gas revenues to raise funds for projects.

Mr. Cann replied we do some bonds.

Commissioner Judah asked is FDOT making a proposal this legislative session to request legislation to index gas tax.

Mr. Cann replied no.

Commissioner Judah replied that pressure needs to stay on the legislature.

Mayor Burch stated we are going to end up with a bonding problem with some of the projects we are seeing.

Mr. Cann replied IROX is being financed and paid over a five year program, because of the financial situation it cannot be guaranteed that we can continue those types of projects because we can't guarantee that it will be paid back.

Commissioner Mann asked if any benefits can be qualified due to the collapse of real estate business.

Mr. Cann replied yes.

Commissioner Fiala asked the estimate of projected cost of savings for the IROX project.

Mr. Cann replied that the public is seeing the savings on the project by it opening up early and translating to less delay.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE FROM BOTH LEE AND COLLIER MPOS TO INDEX STATE GAS TAX. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALAS. MOTION CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER MANN OPPOSED.**

**Agenda Item #7 – Transit Report**

Ms. Arnold with Collier CAT updated the Board on the route changes and modifications; there have been no changes in ridership. Also, stimulus funding will be going towards capital improvements.

Mr. Myers with LeeTran informed the Board that LeeTran applied for a \$6.2 million grant that has been processed to apply for stimulus funding. Another project will be to update the video camera systems on the paratransit vans and trolleys.

**Agenda Item #8 – Public comments on Items not on the Agenda**

Mr. Edson with Collier County Rural Lands Committee congratulated Lee County on the job being done on improving their roadways. He then discussed tolling projects.

Ms. Mazurkiewicz informed the Board that there is a group that will be traveling to Tallahassee, if anyone has any issues that need to be brought up please tell them.

**Agenda Item #9 – Member Comments**

Councilman Ferreira agreed with Mr. Edson.

Mr. Cann clarified that Alligator Alley's lease will have no right to renegotiate the tolls.

Commissioner Judah agreed with Mr. Cann, and asked where the money is coming from to pay for light rail. He then asked Ms. Davis to work with MPO staff and Transit to see what type of grant funds are out there

**Agenda Item #10 – Information Items**

Distributed in agenda packet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY MAYOR FRANK TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALAS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Joint Lee – Collier MPO meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Lee County MPO meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m. by Chairman Flanders

Chairman Flanders asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Marion called the roll for the Lee County MPO.

- Commissioner Mann- present
- Commissioner Hall-absent
- Commissioner Judah-present
- Commissioner Bigelow-present
- Commissioner Janes-present

Councilman Wright – present  
Councilman Henderson – present  
Councilman Flanders – present  
Mayor Burch – present  
Councilman Deile – present  
Councilperson Bertolini – present  
Councilman Brandt – present  
Councilman Raymond – absent  
Councilman Jennings – absent  
Mayor Nelson – absent  
Councilman Ferreira - present

Ms. Marion announced that Lee County attained quorum.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Agenda Item #13A – Approval of the February 18, 2009 and February 20, 2009 MPO Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANN TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2009 AND FEBRUARY 20, 2009 MPO MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Agenda Item #13B – Request Public Input and Recommend MPO Endorsement of LeeTran’s USC 5311 and 5307 Grant Proposals for ARRA Funds**

Mr. Scott gave an update on both grants.

Ms. Monroy informed the committee that the item was put in the agenda for public comments.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO ENDORSE LEETRAN’S USC 5311 AND 5307 GRANT PROPOSALS FOR ARRA FUNDS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MANN.**

Mr. Urich informed the committee that Growth Management Coalition is in favor of the grant, and is pleased with what LeeTran is trying to accomplish.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Agenda Item #13C – Recommend Conditional MPO Approval of TIP Amendments to Include ARRA Funded USC 5311 and 5307 Grant Proposals**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE CONDITIONAL MPO APPROVAL OF TIP AMENDMENTS TO INCLUDE ARRA FUNDED USC 5311 AND 5307 GRANT PROPOSALS. SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON BERTOLINI.**

#### **ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONER MANN – AYE  
COMMISSIONER JUDAH – AYE  
COMMISSIONER BIGELOW – AYE  
COMMISSIONER JANES – AYE  
COUNCILMAN WRIGHT – AYE  
COUNCILMAN HENDERSON – AYE  
COUNCILMAN FLANDERS – AYE**

**MAYOR BURCH – AYE  
COUNCILMAN DEILE – AYE  
COUNCILPERSON BERTOLINI – AYE  
COUNCILMAN BRANDT – AYE  
COUNCILMAN FERREIRA – AYE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Lee MPO meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.