

## **MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**Held on April 17, 2009**

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on April 17, 2009 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida.

Commissioner Tammy Hall	Lee County Commission, District 4
Commissioner Ray Judah	Lee County Commission, District 3
Commissioner Brian Bigelow	Lee County Commission, District 2
Commissioner Robert Janes	Lee County Commission, District 1
Councilman Warren Wright	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Mike Flanders	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Levon Simms	City of For 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 Bob Raymond	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Councilman Jim Jennings	City of Sanibel
Mayor Ben Nelson	City of Bonita Springs

Others in attendance included: Trinity Caudill-Scott, Stan Cann and Johnny Limbaugh with FDOT; David Hutchinson with SWFRPC; Dave Loveland with Lee County DOT; Amy Davies with Wilbur Smith; Heather Mazurkiewicz with the Lee CAC; Darla Letourneau, Toni Ferrell and Dan Moser with BikeWalkLee; Don Eslick with ECCL; Steve Myers and Carmen Monroy with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano and Terri Hall with City of Cape Coral; Kelly Adams and Christopher Libby and Michael Ryan with PBS&J; Dawn Gordon with the Lee County School District; Rosalie Berlin, Donna Minto and Christina Minto as concerned citizens; Maria Hardy with APAC; Jed Schneck, Assistant Lee County Attorney; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi and Meghan Marion, Lee County MPO Staff.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Mike Flanders.

Chairman Flanders led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Marion called the roll.

Commissioner Frank Mann – absent  
Commissioner Tammy Hall - present  
Commissioner Ray Judah - present  
Commissioner Brian Bigelow – present  
Commissioner Robert Janes - absent  
Councilman Warren Wright –present  
Councilman Randy Henderson - absent  
Councilman Mike Flanders - present

Mayor Jim Burch - present  
Councilman Bill Deile - present  
Councilperson Dolores Bertolini - present  
Councilman Peter Brandt - present  
Councilman Bob Raymond - present  
Councilman Jim Jennings - present  
Mayor Ben Nelson - present  
Councilman Levon Simms - present

Ms. Marion announced that a quorum was present.

### **Agenda Item #1 - Minutes of March 20, 2009 Joint MPO Meeting**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2009 JOINT MPO MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Agenda Item #2 – Public Comment on items on the Agenda**

Mr. Moser stated that he is speaking regarding item #9 and hopes that the Board will agree with the recommendations by MPO Staff regarding bike and pedestrian amenities. He also stated that wide curbed lanes should be clearly marked as shared lanes because bicyclists and motorists don't know that they are shared lanes and the bicyclists end up on the sidewalk and the motorists drive in the middle of the lane. He stated that May 15, 2009 is Bike to Work day and there will be a reception at the Courthouse for Bike Walk Lee.

Ms. Letournea stated that she is part of the leadership group Bike Walk Lee. She urges the Board to support the MPO Staff's recommendation regarding bike and pedestrian amenities. She stated that doing retrofits after the fact is expensive and inconvenient.

Ms. Farrell stated that she is a local business owner and an avid cyclist. She stated that she has been hit by a car before on the roads and urges the Board to approve and support MPO Staff's recommendation for bicycle and pedestrian amenities.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Citizens Advisory Committee Report**

Commissioner Janes arrived at 9:12 a.m.

Ms. Mazurkiewicz stated that at the last CAC meeting it was suggested that the CAC have an item on the MPO agenda to address the MPO Board with concerns from the CAC Committee. She stated that the CAC respects the TAC but does not always agree with the recommendations that they make. She stated that Agenda #9 is one of the items that the CAC would like to address their concerns about because several members of the CAC were appalled by the fact that the local jurisdictions and the state were not already coordinating with LeeTran. The CAC requested that a resolution be put together for the Board to approve coordination between FDOT and Local Jurisdictions with LeeTran on plans. She stated that the FDOT report was another issue the CAC discussed. She stated that the Stimulus project list came out and they felt that there were a lot of projects on the list that did not need to be there.

Commissioner Judah stated that he is happy to hear from the CAC and hopes that maybe the TAC would also like to give a brief overview at each MPO meeting.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Agenda Items #4 – Endorsement of an Amendment to the FY 2008/2009 through FY 2012/2013 Transportation Improvement Program to add the Interim Interchange Improvements at I-75/Bonita Beach Road**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

**MOTION BY MAYOR NELSON TO APPROVE ENDORSEMENT OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2008/2009 THROUGH FY 2012/2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD THE INTERIM INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS AT I-75/BONITA BEACH ROAD. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH.**

Chairman Flanders opened the item up for public comments.

No comments were received.

Chairman Flanders closed the public hearing.

Chairman Flanders asked for a roll call vote.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONER HALL – AYE  
COMMISSIONER JUDAH – AYE  
COMMISSIONER BIGELOW – AYE  
COMMISSIONER JANES – AYE  
COUNCILMAN WRIGHT – AYE  
COUNCILMAN FLANDERS – AYE  
MAYOR BURCH – AYE  
COUNCILMAN DEILE – AYE  
COUNCILPERSON BERTOLINI – AYE  
COUNCILMAN BRANDT – AYE  
COUNCILMAN RAYMOND – AYE  
COUNCILMAN JENNINGS – AYE  
MAYOR NELSON – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMS – AYE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Item #5 - Endorsement of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #6 – Adoption of Amendments to the FY 2008/2009 & FY 2009/2010 Unified Planning Work Program**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JANES TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2008/2009 AND FY 2009/2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item #7 – Approval of Resolution 09-02 for the filing of the Grant Application for FTA Section 5303 Funds**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JANES TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 09-02 FOR THE FILING OF THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR FTA SECTION 5303 FUNDS. SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON BERTOLINI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item #8 – Approval of Resolution 09-03 Endorsing the Lee County School District's Prioritized Safe Routes to School Applications**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 09-03 ENDORSING THE LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PRIORITIZED SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL APPLICATIONS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item #9 – Accommodation of Bicycle Lanes and Transit Stops in the US 41 Six Lane Widening Design Plans**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO REQUEST FDOT TO REVISE THE DESIGN PLANS FOR THE US 41 WIDENING PROJECT TO ACCOMMODATE BUS STOPS AND SIGNED AND MARKED BIKE LANES AS FOLLOWS: 1) PROVIDE PROPOSED BUS STOPS AT THE EXISTING LEETRAN BUS STOP LOCATIONS WITHIN THE PROJECT LIMITS; 2) DESIGN THE PROPOSED BUS STOPS AS PER FDOT'S DISTRICT ONE AND SEVEN TRANSIT FACILITY HANDBOOK; 3) IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSED DESIGNATED BIKE LANES IN THE URBAN CROSS SECTION FROM CORKSCREW ROAD TO NORTH OF CYPRESS BEND DRIVE, PROVIDE SIGNED AND MARKED BICYCLE LANES ON THE 1.1 MILE LONG SUBURBAN CROSS SECTION FROM NORTH OF CYPRESS BEND DRIVE TO SAN CARLOS BOULEVARD CONSISTENT WITH FDOT'S PLANS PREPARATION MANUAL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item #10 – Update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Mr. Scott asked FDOT if the bids come in less than what was allocated do we receive the difference in funds.

Mr. Cann stated that if the bids come in lower for the Metro project since you put in \$5 million in your local money anything that comes in lower up to \$5 million will come back to you, anything else goes back into the District's pot of money.

Mr. Cann stated that we have been getting a lot of great bids coming in.

Commissioner Judah asked Mr. Myers with LeeTran about the 31 foot hybrid bus for \$200,000.

Mr. Myers replied that this is a medium duty vehicle. He stated that FDOT has purchased this vehicle and is allowing us to use it as a test vehicle.

Commissioner Judah asked if you have four diesel buses here for \$800,000 why not make them hybrid vehicles.

Mr. Myers stated that there is sufficient funding for those to be hybrids. What we are trying to obtain is a low floor version that is not available in a hybrid. If we could get that type of vehicle with this current funding that is what we are looking for.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cann stated that the Stimulus money will be committed very quickly.

Chairman Flanders asked what the status of the Metro Project is currently.

Mr. Cann stated that the Metro plans have already been sent to Tallahassee, the work order was approved and now the FHWA is looking it over and we are waiting to get authorization from them. He stated that we are looking to advertise in the next two months.

Mr. Gogoi stated that in regards to the Hybrid buses that Commissioner Judah was discussing earlier, there is a federal discretionary grant from the Secretary of Transportation for \$3.1 billion. The minimum amount you can apply for is \$20 million and the requirements for the grant will be coming out on May 18, 2009

Commissioner Judah asked if there is a match involved.

Mr. Gogoi replied no match is needed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Items #11 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

None.

### **Agenda Item #12 – LeeTran Report**

Mr. Myers stated that a demonstration hybrid bus would be arriving on April 29, 2009 and it will be here for about four weeks. He stated that it is a test bus supplied by FDOT.

### **Agenda Item #13 – FDOT Report**

Mr. Cann stated that revenue projections continue to decline. The State was hit with another \$2 billion in projects and we are waiting to see the affects to Lee County. He stated that FDOT is working with LeeTran on bus shelters permitting packages. The Regional Traffic Management Center on Daniels is five months behind but it should be finished by the end of the calendar year.

Councilperson Bertolini asked when SR 78 is passed in this legislature how will the budget cuts affect this project.

Mr. Cann stated that we will have to wait and see but he will get a better answer for that.

### **Agenda Item #14 – Announcements**

Mr. Scott announced that the May 22, 2009 MPO meeting has been changed to May 15, 2009 due to lack of quorum because of Memorial Weekend.

Mayor Burch stated that the MPOAC meeting in Tallahassee was a great experience and thanked MPO Staff for attending with him.

### **Agenda Item #15 – Topics for Next Meeting**

Mr. Scott stated that staff will be bringing TIP amendments and a presentation on the Reason Study to the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item #16 – Information and Distribution Items**

Distributed in agenda packet.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.