

MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on May 7, 2009

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on May 7, 2009 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida.

Matt Noble	Lee County Department of Community Development
David Loveland	Lee County Department of Transportation
Andy Getch	Lee County Department of Transportation
Bill Horner	Lee County Port Authority
Steve Myers	LeeTran
Carmen Monroy	LeeTran
Dawn Gordon	Lee County School Board
Glenn Heath	City of Cape Coral, Community Development
Persides Zambrano	City of Cape Coral, Public Works
Kitty Sayers	Cape Coral Mini Bus Service
John Patterson	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Daryl Walk	City of Bonita Springs
David Hutchinson	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Ken Heatherington	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Trinity Caudill-Scott	Florida Department of Transportation
Julia Davis	Florida Department of Transportation
Gary Bryant	Community Transportation Coordinator

Others in attendance included: Darla Letournea and Toni Ferrell with BikeWalkLee; Wayne Daltry with Lee County Smart Growth; Jack Meeker with ECCL; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi and Meghan Marion, Lee County MPO Staff.

The TAC Committee took a tour of the test Hybrid bus with LeeTran.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m. by Chairman Loveland.

Agenda Item #1 - Minutes of April 2, 2009 TAC Meeting

MOTION BY MS. ZAMBRANO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2009 TAC MEETING. SECONDED BY MR. NOBLE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #2 – Endorsement of the Amendments to the FY 2008/2009 through FY 2012/2013 Transportation Improvement Program to add the Metro/Winkler Intersection Modification, LeeTran Bus Replacement, Countywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan and SR 82/Columbus Blvd. Projects

MOTION BY MS. MONROY TO RECOMMEND MPO ENDORSEMENT OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2008/2009 THROUGH FY 2012/2013

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD THE METRO/WINKLER INTERSECTION MODIFICATION, LEETRAN BUS REPLACEMENT, COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN AND SR 82/COLUMBUS BLVD. PROJECTS. SECONDED BY MS. ZAMBRANO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #3 - Endorsement of the Transportation Disadvantaged Grant Application

Mr. Scott stated that the MPO should be named as the grant recipient instead of the RPC due to comments received.

MOTION BY MS. ZAMBRANO TO RECOMMEND MPO ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED GRANT APPLICATION. SECONDED BY MR. HEATH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #4 – Adoption of a Resolution requesting the Local Jurisdictions and FDOT to Accommodate Bicycle/Pedestrian and Transit Facilities in Construction Projects

Chairman Loveland stated that Lee DOT has significant concerns about this resolution.

Mr. Scott stated that at this time the Staff recommendation is to table this item until it goes through the BPC. He stated that Staff has received several comments regarding this resolution.

MOTION BY MR. HUTCHINSON TO TABLE THE ITEM PROVIDED THAT THE TAC MAKE COMMENTS ON THE RESOLUTION TODAY FOR PLACEMENT ON THE MPO AGENDA IN JUNE SO THAT IT DOESN'T JUST GO AWAY.

Chairman Loveland stated that he doesn't believe that all the issues will be worked out by June.

Ms. Monroy stated that from a transit perspective, at least a dialog has been started. She stated that perhaps the resolution is a little advanced in the dialog that needs to be explored.

Chairman Loveland opened up the item for comments from the public.

Ms. Margaret Banyan with FGCU stated that she is in support of the resolution. She stated that this issue is coming up because it is more economical to build these retrofits into the plans in the beginning of a design rather than after the fact.

Ms. Toni Ferrell, a local architect, stated that she is in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Darla Letournea with BikeWalk Lee stated that this resolution is out there to state that there is a law out there that needs to be followed for bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Mr. Ken Waymers a citizen of Fort Myers stated that we are in a new era and we are going to become a greener community. He stated that he was once pulled over in his neighborhood for pushing his wheelchair in the road because he doesn't have sidewalks in his community.

Chairman Loveland closed the public comment session.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Heath asked what the legal effect of this resolution will be if it is passed.

Ms. Caudill-Scott stated that this resolution has no legal authority.

Ms. Monroy stated that if it is adopted you are agreeing to abide by this in good faith.

Ms. Zambrano stated that she doesn't know how the MPO will approve this without taking local jurisdictions policies into account.

Ms. Caudill-Scott stated that she thinks it comes back to having a good Master Plan. She stated that if there was a good Master Plan it would address all of these issues.

MOTION BY MS. ZAMBRANO TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND ALLOW IT TO GO THROUGH THE BPC COMMITTEE AND ADDRESS ANY COMMENTS RECEIVED AND THEN BRING IT BACK THROUGH THE TAC AND CAC COMMITTEES BEFORE GOING TO THE MPO BOARD FOR ADOPTION. SECONDED BY MR. HUTCHINSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 – Review and Approve the Revised Goals and Objectives for the LRTP Update

Mr. Scott stated that this item will be coming back because MPO Staff is still receiving comments.

Ms. Zambrano stated that she has some comments for Staff regarding the reduction of greenhouse gas.

Mr. Scott stated that the two MPO's are scheduling a Kickoff meeting for the LRTP Update in June and we will probably wait until after that to bring back the Goals and Objectives so we can receive comments through that workshop.

Agenda Item #6 – Discussion on the 2009 Surface Transportation Program and State Funded Priorities

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Ms. Monroy stated that LeeTran has long term issues with its bus replacements and they would like to see the funding designated on a long term basis.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Caudill-Scott stated that the MPO is working on the congestion management process which will determine how the funding is split in the box.

Ms. Zambrano stated that putting all the boxes into one worked for us last year.

Ms. Caudill-Scott replied that she is not confident that the entire box will be funded this year due to the amount of budget cuts.

Mr. Scott asked if the committee would like to have all three into one box or individual boxes.

Ms. Monroy stated that she would like to see the box called a multimodal box instead of a transportation enhancement box.

Discussion ensued.

The Committee agreed to call the one box a Multi-modal Enhancement box and Mr. Scott stated that it would come back in June as part of the priorities.

Agenda Item #7 – Presentation on Reducing Congestion in Lee County Study Conducted by the Reason Foundation

Mr. Chris Swenson with CRSPE, Inc. gave a presentation on the Reducing Congestion in Lee County Study Conducted by the Reason Foundation.

Agenda Item #8 – Discussion about including a TAC Report at the MPO Board

Mr. Scott stated that the CAC had requested to have an item on the MPO Board agenda to discuss what the committee discussed during their meeting. He stated that at the last MPO Board meeting, Commissioner Judah requested that the TAC also give a report from their meeting.

Chairman Loveland replied that he would give the reports for the TAC.

Agenda Item #9 – Draft Charlotte County – Punta Gorda and Lee County MPOs Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Scott stated that this is a draft interlocal agreement with Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO and the Lee County MPO. He stated that it is constructed similar to the current interlocal that Lee MPO has with Collier MPO. He stated that at this time they have not received any comments from the committees and it will go before the MPO for approval in August.

Ms. Zambrano stated that she will forward her comments to MPO Staff.

Agenda Item #10 – Hand out the draft FY 2009/2010 – FY 2013/2014 Transportation Improvement Program to Start the Review Process

Mr. Scott stated that this is the draft FY 2009/10 – FY 2013/14 TIP to start the public comment review process. He stated that this would go before the MPO Board for approval at their June 19, 2009 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item #11 – LeeTran Report

Ms. Monroy welcomed Gary Bryant from Good Wheels. She stated that they are a non-voting member and they have not had the opportunity to address their needs.

Mr. Bryant stated that currently the Transportation Disadvantaged service is underfunded and by next year it will be reduced even further. He stated that if the funding is cut again they will have to turn away life sustaining medical trips.

Ms. Sayers asked if there will be future grant funding for the hybrid bus that is being tested.

Ms. Monroy stated that the configuration is not optimal for the service that LeeTran conducts and they are just using it for operational data at this time.

Ms. Zambrano asked if the vehicle would be available for the Cape Coral Mini Bus Service.

Ms. Monroy stated that she would give the contact information to Ms. Sayers.

Mr. Scott asked what the cost of this hybrid bus is.

Ms. Monroy replied \$200,000.

Agenda Item #12 – FDOT Report

Ms. Caudill-Scott reviewed the impacts of the State Revenue Conference. She also stated the results of the ARRA Funds and stated that they would be funding Metro and if it comes in less than what was expected, FDOT would return up to the \$5 million dollars that was received from local dollars.

Ms. Caudill-Scott stated that FDOT has been working with the City of Cape Coral for the SR 78 and they have received approval and it should be coming back to the MPO Board for approval at the June meeting.

Agenda Item #13 – Announcements

Mr. Meeker stated that the Water Management District is pushing to have more water under I-75 and he doesn't feel that it is necessary.

Mr. Daltry stated that a legislative review should be done for the MPO for SB360 and HB227 and how it will affect the MPO.

Agenda Item #14 – Topics for Next Meeting

None.

Agenda Item #15 – Information and Distribution Items

Distributed in agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.