

MINUTES OF THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on December 3, 2009

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee on December 3, 2009 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida.

Those in attendance included:

Thomas Ruscik	Lee County, District 1
David Maile	Lee County, District 2
Tony Cardinale	Lee County, District 3
Al O'Donnell	Lee County, District 3
Alexander Bower	Lee County, District 4
Heather Mazurkiewicz	Lee County, District 4
Rick Anglickis	Lee County, District 5
Phil Boller	City of Cape Coral
David Scott	City of Cape Coral
Chris Berardi	City of Cape Coral
Rick Williams	City of Cape Coral
Carla Johnston	City of Sanibel
John Pohland	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Arthur Godar	Member At-Large
Kemi Morten	Member At-Large

Others in attendance included: Carmen Monroy with LeeTran; Trinity Scott and Mark Clark with FDOT; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi and Meghan Marion with Lee County MPO.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chairman Anglickis.

Ms. Marion announced that there was a quorum present.

Ms. Monroy talked about the Hybrid bus and that the bus was funded through a 2007 grant from FDOT with Lee County providing the matching funds and was also supplemented by a federal earmark.

CAC members were directed outside to view LeeTran's Hybrid bus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – Minutes of the November 5, 2009 CAC Meeting

MOTION BY MR. WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2009 CAC MEETING. SECONDED BY MS. MAZURKIEWCZ. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #3 – Endorsement of FDOT's Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2010/2011 through FY 2014/2015

Ms. Scott presented this item reviewing the changes to the work program.

Discussion ensued on matching funds.

Ms. Scott said there were no deferrals, the deletions were projects that were put into other projects, and there was a design advanced, for SR 82 from Lee Blvd. to Shawnee and that Lee County had done very well this time year.

Ms. Morten asked how much money had gone to minority groups.

Ms. Scott said she was not sure, but that there was an economic stimulus website which tracked this type of information. FDOT held a contractor forum to try and get minority business owners involved with the projects. She reported that not all stimulus projects have been put out to bid, but that they could look into this matter and find out which projects had gone to DBEs and that she would provide this information to Ms. Morten.

MOTION BY MR. BOLLER TO RECOMMEND MPO ENDORSEMENT OF FDOT'S DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR FY 2010/2011 THROUGH FY 2014/2015. SECONDED BY MR. BERARDI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #4 – Update on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Negotiations

Mr. Don Scott presented this item stating that staff was still in negotiation and this item will be brought back next month.

Agenda Item #5 – Review the LRTP Media Distribution List

Ms. Marion asked the CAC members to review the LRTP media list and send any corrections or additions to MPO staff.

Ms. Johnston asked if there was any way to get this information out to the public.

Mr. Scott said that staff had a TAN list which was updated throughout the year. Staff was trying to get this list converted over to an e-mail list which would enable quicker responses.

Ms. Mazurkiewicz said that the members play a huge role in getting the word out.

Agenda Item #6 – Agenda Items/Issues for an upcoming Joint Meeting with the Charlotte MPO

Mr. Don Scott said that he went to the Charlotte TAC meeting to discuss holding a Joint Meeting with the Charlotte MPO and it appeared that the end of February or beginning of March would be the time to hold this meeting.

Mr. Scott said that Babcock, the Burnt Store Road corridor, Zemel property, discussion of Seminole Gulf Railway corridor and its future, transit connections and service across county lines, SWF regional coordination (Collier Charlotte, Lee, Hendry) were suggested as topics. The Charlotte BOCC voted down expanding to a general transit system and Charlotte County staff expected this issue to be addressed next month.

Mr. David Scott asked how far north Lee Tran goes up on US 41.

Ms. Monroy said service was to Merchants Crossing.

A question was raised about the Zemel property.

Mr. Don Scott said the concern was related to the access off of US 41 and the plans for that portion of the Zemel property.

Agenda Item #7 – Tasks for the FY 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Don Scott presented this item and said that a draft would be brought back to the CAC in March.

Mr. O'Donnell asked about data collection activities and the future direction of this.

Mr. Don Scott said that the county is using transponders on Colonial Boulevard for studies. The county counts number of vehicles, but not what kind of vehicles.

Mr. O'Donnell said that if the County started having transponders with counters that counted counts and speeds, it would be easy to put that information on the web.

Discussion ensued on real time statistics, intelligent traffic systems and congestion management system.

Mr. O'Donnell said he would like to see the cost for each data station and then have discussion on what we could have over the years.

Mr. Scott said that he understood Mr. O'Donnell's concerns and would look at putting this data together for further discussion.

Agenda Item #8 – Discussion about the Attendance of CAC Members and the Letters Sent Out

Mr. Scott presented this item. His main focus was to address filling the vacancies and to have a cross section represented on this Committee.

Chairman Anglickis said that the real problem is there are so many members and that a certain amount of members had to be present at each meeting to achieve a quorum unless the bylaws were changed. He stated that the process of sending out letters to the members who had not been attending the meetings was very worthwhile.

Mr. Scott said that there is no wording in the bylaws about excused absences and the committee might want to change the bylaws.

Ms. Morten said that she felt that it would be helpful if the meeting schedule could be e-mailed to the members.

Ms. Marion said that the meeting schedule was on the MPO website.

Discussion on Airport Management Committee membership ensued or having a Lee County Port Authority staff member provide a report to the CAC on a quarterly basis.

MOTION BY MR. DAVID SCOTT TO LEAVE THE BYLAWS AS THEY CURRENTLY ARE WRITTEN. SECONDED BY MR. BOWER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Walk on Item – Recommend MPO Board Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the MPO Chairman to Sign Off on TIP Amendments that may be needed to Fund Projects on the Previously Approved MPO's Production Ready Project List

Mr. Don Scott presented this item.

MOTION BY MR. MAILE TO RECOMMEND MPO BOARD APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MPO CHAIRMAN TO SIGN OFF ON TIP AMENDMENTS THAT MAY BE NEEDED TO FUND PROJECTS ON THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED MPO'S PRODUCTION READY PROJECT LIST. SECONDED BY MS. JOHNSTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item #9 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

None.

Agenda Item #10 – LeeTran Report

None.

Agenda Item #11 – FDOT Report

Mr. Clark stated that FDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the Draft Tentative Work Program at the December 18, 2009 MPO meeting.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

Mr. Don Scott said there was a special legislative session regarding the high speed rail currently underway and spoke about that process.

Agenda Item #13 – Topics for next meeting

Ms. Mazurkiewicz stated that she would like to discuss different staffing options for the MPO Staff through a subcommittee. She stated that she received a report that Broward County did that came up with different staffing options in light of budget constraints. Ms. Mazurkiewicz said that this would be a good matter to look into. Broward County had four recommendations.

Chairman Anglickis said he had no problem with this and for the committee to come back with suggestions. MPO staff will e-mail this information out to the members and that this item would be on the agenda next month.

Ms. Morten stated that she would like to have the report about minority businesses being reached put on the February agenda.

Mr. Gogoi stated that the Metro crossover from Winkler to SR 82 will be on the January agenda.

Agenda Item #19 – Information and Distribution Items

Distributed in agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.