

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

**Held on November 20, 2009**

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on November 20, 2009 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida.

Commissioner Frank Mann	Lee County Commission, District 5
Commissioner Tammy Hall	Lee County Commission, District 4
Commissioner Ray Judah	Lee County Commission, District 3
Councilman Mike Flanders	City of Fort Myers
Councilman Thomas Leonardo	City of Fort Myers
Mayor John Sullivan	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Kevin Mc Grail	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Peter Brandt	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Chris Chulakes-Leetz	City of Cape Coral
Councilman Bob Raymond	Town of Fort Myers Beach

Others in attendance included: Rosalie Berlin a concerned citizen; Bob Stewart with National Associates of Railroad Passengers; Steve Rodgers with Caloosa Riders; Micki Regas a concerned citizen; Virgil Bates a concerned citizen; Jack Meeker with ECCL; Dave Urich with Responsible Growth Management Coalition; Carmen Monroy with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano, Charles Paulos and Steve Neff with the City of Cape Coral; Vijay Kornala with David Plummer and Associates; Don Eslick with ECCL; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; Lark Campisano a concerned citizen; Dan Moser with BPC; Heather Mazurkiewicz with the CAC; David Loveland with the TAC; Johnny Limbaugh and Mark Clark with Florida Department of Transportation; Don Scott and Ron Gogoi with Lee County MPO Staff; and Angie Tomlinson with Southwest Florida RPC Staff.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairman Mike Flanders.

Chairman Flanders led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Tomlinson called the roll.

Commissioner Frank Mann – present  
Commissioner Tammy Hall - present  
Commissioner Ray Judah - present  
Commissioner Brian Bigelow – absent  
Commissioner Robert Janes - absent  
Councilman Thomas Leonardo - present  
Councilman Levon Simms - absent  
Councilman Mike Flanders – present  
Mayor John Sullivan - present  
Councilman Peter Brandt - present  
Councilperson Chris Chulakes-Leetz - present

Councilman Kevin Mc Grail - present  
Councilman Bob Raymond - present  
Councilman Jim Jennings - absent  
Mayor Ben Nelson - absent  
Councilman Richard Ferreira - absent

Ms. Tomlinson announced that a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item #1 - Minutes of the September 18, 2009 MPO Meeting**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 MPO MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #2 – Minutes of the October 16, 2009 Joint Lee Collier MPO Meeting**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2009 JOINT LEE COLLIER MPO MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #3 – Public Comments on Items on the Agenda**

Mr. Dave Urich with Responsible Growth Management Coalition asked that we study the alternative to Colonial, which is the Cypress/Daniels expressway. He asked that we look carefully at where the East/West corridor could be located for Babcock. The current location for the Del Prado expressway connection through Prairie Pines is nearly four miles longer than going up US 41 to Tuckers Grade for the people in Cape Coral and will have a toll to get it built to the Interstate. He expressed that if we move that interchange three miles to roughly mile marker 150 that we would actually have an effective flow for both Babcock and the City of Cape Coral.

Mr. Dan Moser with Lee County MPO BPCCC stated that the committee is looking forward to getting the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan started.

Mr. Steve Rogers with Caloosa Riders expressed his appreciation to the committee for moving the addition of pave shoulders on SR82 to Buckingham Road at the park up on the priority list.

Ms. Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee stated her appreciation for the efforts that have been put out through the last year regarding Bicycle/Pedestrian facilities. She presented the board with two letters, one regarding recommendations to make streets safer for everyone and the other was a letter sent to Governor Crist to take action on the terrible deaths that have been caused; she emphasized that the BPCCC Master Plan is the next step to come up with and implementation plan. She then proceeded to state that this was a good opportunity to use the stimulus money for the bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Mr. Mick Rigas, a concerned citizen, stated his concerns regarding the Del Prado Interchange; he feels that moving it three miles North would help protect Prairie Pines.

Ms. Lark Campisano, a concerned citizen stated her concerns regarding the wildlife that is located in Prairie Pines and the road plans that will potentially wipe out the neighborhood and

park. She also stated that horse riders will now have to ride through a tunnel under six lanes of highway to enter the park.

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Citizens Advisory Committee Report**

Ms. Mazurkiewicz gave the results of the actions taken at the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on November 5, 2009 and stated the CAC concerns regarding the goods and freight study, LRTP Public Involvement Plan (PIP); CAC members have sent out the PIP to all their contacts to get the public involved with making comments, concern was expressed about the update of the 2035 SIS; and the need for airport connectors and/or the Daniels Interchange improvements. The final concern that she expressed was over the roster and attendance, to make an effort to fill the roster with people who take their job of being on the CAC seriously and showing up to the meetings; all representatives have been contacted to get citizens involved.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Technical Advisory Committee Report**

Mr. Loveland gave the results of the actions taken at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on September 4, 2009. He stated that the TAC is asking for clarification regarding stimulus priorities on partially funded projects; an example would be Buckingham Road project.

Councilman Leonardo clarified that Mr. Loveland asked what happens to funding from the stimulus package if it's now used; if the project comes in at \$300 and uses \$200 where does the extra \$100 go. The discussion calcified that the local allocated funding comes back to Lee County.

Mr. Loveland confirmed that he requesting that the board reconfirms their priority list.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Agenda Item #6 - Review and Approval of the Lee County Goods and Freight Study**

Mr. Scott presented the Lee County Goods and Freight study.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE LEE COUNTY MPO FREIGHT AND GOODS MOBILITY STUDY. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH.**

Councilman Leonardo expressed his concern regarding the lack of emphasis on rail.

Mr. Scott informed the committee that the Lee County MPO has put in for a TIGER grant and rail feasibility study, but at this time have not heard any news on if we have received either of them.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Update of the Federal Stimulus Project List**

Mr. Scott informed the Board that the committee's had voted to move up the Buckingham Road project and Fort Myers Beach Matanzas Pass Bridge on the priority list. He asked that all

jurisdictions keep the MPO staff informed of the progress of their projects and if they know of other projects that should be on the list.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE THE UPDATED PRIORITIES LIST AND THAT ANY PARTIALLY FUNDED PROJECTS THAT COME IN UNDER BID, REMAINING DOLLARS WOULD FUND IT FULLY OR MORE AND PROJECTS THAT ARE FULLY FUNDED, BUT COME IN LESS WILL COME BACK TO THE MPO TO KEEP HITTING DOWN THE PRIORITIES LIST. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL.**

Councilman Leonardo asked when the start of the I-75 from S Colonial to SR 82 project will start.

Mr. Limbaugh replied that it would be after the first of the year.

Councilman Leonardo asked why the I-75 from Lockett to SR 80 is \$5 million more than the previous project if it is the same distance.

Mr. Scott replied that the project costs on this list are probably not the latest cost.

Mr. Limbaugh added that it could also be the details of the project.

Mr. Limbaugh added that the FDOT is asking for clarification because the MPO had asked for project A-B; we asked Lee County for a scope based on an estimate of availability of funds, and asked the staff scale the project back to fit the budget. He then clarified that all the money that was dedicated to Lee County will come back to the MPO and will be addressed by this list.

Councilman Raymond expressed his concerns about the Fort Myers Beach Bridge trolley lane.

Mr. Scott asked if the Board considered the Six Mile Cypress project as partially funded.

Mr. Limbaugh asked if FDOT takes more Lee County money to finish the project.

Commissioner Judah replied no, you are going to take in more federal stimulus money.

Mr. Loveland replied it would be considered a partially funded project in terms of stimulus funding; if additional stimulus funding is available to fill that gap then there is less Lee County money that has to go into that project. If the TRIP money is kept in, then there will have to be some Lee County money to match it.

Mr. Neff informed the committee that the initial thought was to rank the Viscaya project ahead of the Six Mile Cypress project; the City of Cape Coral has moved forward with designs to move the Viscaya project forward.

Commissioner Hall explained and clarified that the motion to take care of this; if there is additional funds available then the money goes to the next project on the list.

Councilman Chulakes-Leetz asked how much of the Lee County funds is dedicated to the Six Mile Cypress project.

Mr. Loveland replied that there is \$2.5 million in Lee County funds, \$4 million in stimulus funds, and \$1 million in TRIP funds.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #8 – Review and Approve the 45 Day Comment Period for the LRTP Public Involvement Plan**

Mr. Scott reviewed the 45 Day comment period.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE 45 DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE LRTP PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #9 – Review and Approve the 45 Day Comment Period for the Revisions to the Public Involvement Plan**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE 45 DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN RAYMOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #10 – Review and Approve the 45 Day Comment Period for the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE 45 DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFIECIENCY. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BRANDT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #11 – Approval of the Ranking of the Bicycle/Pedestrian RFP Proposals**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE RANKING OF THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN RFP PROPOSALS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #12 – Approval of \$500 of non-Federal Funds to Support MPOAC Legislative Activities**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE CONTRIBUTION OF \$500 TO THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (MPOAC) FOR THEIR USE IN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #13 - Review and Approve National Rail Support Letters to the Congressional Delegation**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO THE NATIONAL RAIL SUPPORT LETTERS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE LETTERS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #14 – Review the Updated Strategic Intermodal System 2035 Plan**

Mr. Scott reviewed and updated the committee on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) 2035 Plan.

**Agenda Item #15 – Update on the JARC and New Freedom Program and Grant Submittals**

Mr. Scott gave an update on the JARC and New Freedom program and grant; LeeTran will be working with the agencies.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item #16 – Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

Mr. Bob Stewart, a concerned citizen expressed his concerns regarding rail.

**Agenda Item #17 – LeeTran Report**

None

**Agenda Item #18 – CTC Report**

None

**Agenda Item #19 – FDOT Report**

Mr. Johnny Limbaugh informed the committee that Northbound I-75 lanes will be opening tonight.

Ms. Tower informed that I-75 between the interchanges of Colonial Blvd. and Golden Gate Parkway will be opened by 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Limbaugh informed the committee that the bids for SR 82 have come in well under the anticipated budget.

Commissioner Mann asked how much lower the project came in.

Mr. Limbaugh replied that the budget was \$38 million and the project came in at \$22 million.

Mr. Flanders asked what the time schedule is for the southbound lanes of I-75.

Mr. Limbaugh replied that they are currently putting down the friction course now; based on the temperature and weather the estimated date of completion will be the end of the year.

Ms. Tower replied that the estimated date is January 2010.

**Agenda Item #20 – Announcements**

Mayor Sullivan read a letter from the City of Cape Coral; thanking the MPO members and FDOT for their support regarding Economic Stimulus sidewalk projects.

Mr. Scott addressed the vacancies on the Transit Authority for the City of Cape Coral, City of Fort Myers, and City of Sanibel and there are also vacancies on the CAC for the City of Fort Myers. He informed the committee that MPOAC training that will allow two members, one for each date, to attend will be held on February 5-7 and May 14-16. Councilman Leonardo volunteered for the February 5-7, 2010.

Commissioner Hall informed the committee that the Lee County Board had a meeting with Hendry County; they do not have their own MPO and we have some joint projects with them. Hendry County has put a request in to sit in one of our meetings to share some of their thoughts on their section of what is happening with SR 80, which is very slight. She then requested having this joint meeting on a light schedule meeting and filling it with about an hour to have the joint meeting with their two cities and County Commission.

**Agenda Item #21 – Topics for Next Meeting**

MPOAC Meeting  
Joint meeting with Lee/Hendry Counties – Beginning of next year

**Agenda Item #22 – Information and Distribution Items**

Letters from Dave Urich  
Recommendations SIS

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.