

# MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

Held on December 18, 2009

The following members were present for the regular meeting of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on December 18, 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
Commissioner Brian Bigelow	Lee County Commission, District 2
Councilman Levon Simms	City of Fort Myers
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
Councilman Jim Jennings	City of Sanibel
Mayor Ben Nelson	City of Bonita Springs

Others in attendance included: Rosalie Berlin a concerned citizen; Steve Myers with LeeTran; Persides Zambrano, Charles Pavlos and Terri Hall with the City of Cape Coral; Don Eslick with ECCL; Darla Letourneau, Dan Moser and Margaret Banyan with BikeWalkLee; Heather Mazurkiewicz with the CAC; David Loveland with the TAC; Stan Cann, Johnny Limbaugh, Trinity Scott, Julia Davis and Mark Clark with Florida Department of Transportation; Mick Denham with City of Sanibel; Jim Ranfranz citizen of Cape Coral; Suresh Karre with David Plummer & Associates; Linda Carter with Lee LCB; Alexander Grant with Bonita Springs Florida Passenger Rail Advocate; Roy Schofield with Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc.; Mark Cornwell with Test Lab, Inc.; Gary Bryant with Good Wheels; John Albion with FMB Chamber of Commerce; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi and Meghan Marion with Lee County MPO Staff.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 – present  
Commissioner Tammy Hall - present  
Commissioner Ray Judah - present  
Commissioner Brian Bigelow – present  
Commissioner Robert Janes - absent  
Councilman Thomas Leonardo - present  
Councilman Levon Simms - present

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 - present  
Mayor Ben Nelson - present

Ms. Marion announced that a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item #1 - Minutes of the November 20, 2009 MPO Meeting**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2009 MPO MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MANN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Mr. Loveland presented the recommendations from the TAC.

**Agenda Item #2 – Citizen’s Advisory Committee Report**

Ms. Mazurkiewicz presented the recommendations from the CAC and stated that the CAC would be forming a sub-committee to look at different possibilities for the organizational structure of the MPO. She stated that a member came across a study done by Broward County MPO that looked at various alternatives to staffing and how the entity does business, cost etc. to see what is the most fiscally responsible. She also stated that being attached to the RPC may be the best way for this MPO but the CAC would like to look into the study to see what comes out of it.

Commissioner Hall stated that she thought the MPO was its own entity and that we only use the RPC for staffing.

Mr. Scott replied that according to the staff services agreement the MPO is under the RPC.

Commissioner Hall replied that the MPO is on its own except for the Staff Services Agreement and that the Staff Services Agreement needs to be brought to the Board for discussion.

Mr. Scott stated that MPO Staff is waiting on comments from FHWA and FDOT on the Staff Services Agreement and then it will be brought to the Board for discussion.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Agenda Item #4 – Endorsement of FDOT’s Draft Tentative Work Program Following the Public Hearing for the District’s FY 2010/2011 – 2014/2015 Tentative Work Program Conducted Pursuant to Section 339.135(4)(c), F.S.**

Mr. Limbaugh presented the item with a video that shows what FDOT is doing District Wide.

Ms. Scott gave a PowerPoint presentation.

FDOT conducted their public hearing. For details on comments made for this agenda item please contact FDOT.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE ENDORSEMENT OF FDOT'S TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR FY 2010/2011 THROUGH FY 2014/2015. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL.**

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONER MANN – AYE  
COMMISSIONER HALL – AYE  
COMMISSIONER JUDAH – AYE  
COMMISSIONER BIGELOW – AYE  
COUNCILMAN LEONARDO – AYE  
COUNCILMAN SIMMS – AYE  
COUNCILMAN FLANDERS – AYE  
MAYOR SULLIVAN – AYE  
COUNCILMAN BRANDT – AYE  
COUNCILMAN MC GRAIL – AYE  
COUNCILMAN CHULAKES-LEETZ – AYE  
COUNCILMAN RAYMOND – AYE  
COUNCILMAN JENNINGS – AYE  
MAYOR NELSON – AYE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item #5 – Public Comments on Items on the Agenda**

Darla Letournea spoke in regards to agenda item number 6, the stimulus project priority list. She stated that there are 33 bicycle pedestrian projects on this list and above those projects are road projects that estimate over \$200 million. She would like to see the bicycle pedestrian projects moved before the road projects. She would also like to see the Matanzas Pass Bridge pedestrian railing project done now and not to wait, she would like to see item 7 moved to item 4.

Dan Moser stated that he would like to suggest an item for the Joint meeting with Charlotte MPO. He stated that in the SIS it states that all current roads will be brought up to standards and that is not being done. In Charlotte County Bayshore Road SR 78 they are currently doing a resurface project and they are not going to accommodate bicycle pedestrians in this upgrade.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Margaret Banyan representing BikeWalkLee spoke about the planning for the Colonial Expressway and accommodations for bicycle pedestrian facilities. She stated that she is here to ensure that all the projects that are done are implemented with the same thought as the Resolution 09-05 that was passed by this Board as well.

Linda Carter would like to have the 2.5% designated to transit because the systems cannot function properly and that people are unable to get to where they need to be. As seniors get older they should not be driving but they do because the transit systems are insufficient. Ms. Carter also stated that the sidewalk projects are great but for someone that is disabled you need to make sure that the medians are built to accommodate the disabled and pedestrians as well because a disabled person should not have to ride up 2 miles to the next traffic signal in order to cross the street.

Jerry Murphy stated that the transit route that serves the Town of Fort Myers Beach is one of the most functional routes and he encourages moving up the Matanzas Pass Bridge Project. He also encouraged working with CSX for a future rail.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Item #6 - Approval of Resolution 09-09 Giving the MPO Chairman Authorization to Sign TIP Amendments for the Approved Production Ready Project List**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Chairman Flanders

**MOTION BY COUNCILMAN RAYMOND TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 09-09, GIVING THE MPO CHAIRMAN AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN TIP AMENDMENTS FOR THE APPROVED PRODUCTION READY PROJECT LIST WITH THE CHANGE IN PRIORITY ORDER TO MOVE #7 TO #4 ON THE PRIORITY LIST. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Agenda Item #7 – Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2010**

Mr. Scott presented this item and stated that if we continue on the cycle that we have done in the past the next jurisdiction up for Vice-Chairmanship would be either the Town of Fort Myers Beach or the City of Cape Coral if the Board wishes to continue that cycle.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER JUDAH AS THE MPO CHAIRMAN FOR 2010. SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO NOMINATE COUNCILMAN RAYMOND AS THE MPO VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2010. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Agenda Item #8 – Appointment of MPOAC Governing Board Representatives for 2010**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANN TO NOMINATE COUNCILMAN MC GRAIL AS THE MAIN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MPOAC GOVERNING BOARD FOR 2010. SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHULAKES-LEETZ. MOTION DECLINED BY COUNCILMAN MC GRAIL.**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANN TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HALL AS THE MAIN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MPOAC GOVERNING BOARD FOR 2010. SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER MANN AS THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MPOAC GOVERNING BOARD FOR 2010. SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #9 – Identification of Two Members to Attend the MPOAC Weekend Institute Training**

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Councilman Chulakes-Leetz stated that he would attend the February 5-7, 2010 Weekend Institute.

Councilman Leonardo stated that he would attend the May 14-16, 2010 Weekend Institute.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MANN TO APPROVE COUNCILMAN CHULAKES-LEETZ AND COUNCILMAN LEONARDO AS LEE MPO REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE TWO MPOAC WEEKEND INSTITUTES FOR 2010. SECONDED BY MAYOR SULLIVAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #10 – Resolutions of Appreciation**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION. SECONDED BY MAYOR NELSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #11 – LCB Appointments**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JUDAH TO APPROVE THE LCB APPOINTMENTS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #12 – Discussion about the Gasoline Hybrid Bus**

Mr. Myers stated that the hybrid electric vehicle is located outside and encouraged the Board to view it. He stated that this project is a group project with FDOT, FTA and a private corporation from California ISE. He stated that this is a demonstration bus to see how well it functions in the different environments. He also stated that it should be out on the road in the next couple of weeks.

**Agenda Item #13 – Update on the Ding Darling APPL Study**

Mr. Horsting gave an overview of this agenda item.

David Baxter with Jacobs Engineering gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the update of the Ding Darling Alternative Transportation for Parks and Public Lands.

**Agenda Item #14 – Discussion of Proposed Agenda Items for an Upcoming Joint Meeting with the Charlotte MPO**

Mr. Scott presented the items to be discussed and stated that Charlotte MPO does not wish to have the TAC and CAC Committees meet jointly only the MPO Boards.

Mr. Limbaugh stated that he understood that the Boards would meet and then they would go back to their Committees and determine what they would like to further explore at subsequent Joint meetings.

Commissioner Hall stated that this is a really long list and that we should set up a couple of items to discuss instead of this entire list.

Mr. Scott stated that he would like to determine what main topics should be discussed and he would work with Charlotte MPO on a timeframe for each item.

Commissioner Hall suggested Babcock Ranch, Seminole Gulf Rail Corridor and the Burnt Store Road Corridor as the main topics.

**Agenda Item #15 – Proposed Tasks for the FY 2010/2011 and FY 2011/2012 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Scott presented this item and asked for any additional items.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item #17 – LeeTran Report**

None

**Agenda Item #18 – CTC Report**

Mr. Bryant thanked Lee County, LeeTran and the Lee MPO for supporting the New Freedom grant that resulted in \$88,000 which will also be matched by \$88,000 in United Way money. This will allow us to provide an additional 50 trips per week of medical trips. He stated that Good Wheels is only providing medical trips. The woefully underfunded condition prevents Good Wheels from providing any employment, education/training, shopping, or social trips in Lee County.

**Agenda Item #19 – FDOT Report**

Mr. Cann presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Deanne Robison.

Mr. Cann stated that the Rail Bill passed and FDOT is working through the details now.

Commissioner Bigelow stated that the LCB recently discussed this Enterprise and asked that a member of the Transportation Disadvantaged be considered as a member of the Committee.

Mr. Albion with the Chamber of Fort Myers Beach stated that he would like to thank the Board for moving up the Matanzas Pass Bridge project. He stated that he also wants to make the Board aware of another project for the Matanzas pass bridge and he stated that they are working with FDOT on it. The bridge needs to be painted and Fort Myers Beach would like to know what the appropriate color should be. They would like for it to be blue but were told that there would have to be an agreement to take over the maintenance of the bridge.

**Agenda Item #20 – Announcements**

Mr. Scott stated that all the signatures are in for the execution of the Creation of the MPO Interlocal agreement so the City of Bonita Springs needs to select an additional member for the next meeting.

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

None.

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

Distributed in agenda packet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.