

COLLIER METROPLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) BOARD MEETING

Board of County Commissioner Chambers

3299 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples

9:00 a.m.

March 8, 2019

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Councilman Buxton called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Otero called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilman Reg Buxton, City of Naples, Chair

Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., Collier County BCC District 5,

Commissioner Donna Fiala, Collier County BCC District 1

Commissioner Burt Saunders, Collier County BCC District 3

Councilwoman Elaine Middelstaedt, City of Everglades City

Councilman Erik Brechnitz, City of Marco Island

Councilman Terry Hutchison, City of Naples

Members Absent

Commissioner Andy Solis, Collier County BCC District 2

Commissioner Penny Taylor, Collier County BCC District 4

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, MPO Executive Director

Brandy Otero, MPO Senior Planner

Eric Ortman, MPO Senior Planner

Karen Intriago, MPO Administrative Assistant

FDOT

Wayne Gaither, FDOT

L.K Nandam, FDOT

Others Present

Scott Teach, Deputy County Attorney

Michelle Avola, Naples Pathway Coalition

Wally Blain, Tindale Oliver

RaeAnn Burton, Citizen

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Hutchison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of the Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items

4. A. Approval of Reappointment of a Local Coordinating Board (LCB) for Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Member

4.B. February 8, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fiala asked if the Chairman for Congestion Management Committee (CMC) will be able to attend the Board meetings and present an update to the Board? **Ms. McLaughlin** noted that County staff has taken it for granted that she would represent their case in front of the Board. Ms. McLaughlin stated that she will advise the Chairman to attend the Board meeting and present the Chair report.

Commissioner Fiala asked if the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) agreed to remain on the committee as a voting member? **Ms. McLaughlin** stated that the Executive Director for SWFRPC agreed to remaining on the committee as a voting member; staff is in discussion with the County Attorney's Office for a legal review and noted that it appears possible to modify the MPO Bylaws to add the SWFRPC as a voting member.

Mr. Teach stated that this summer the Bylaws will undergo a uniform clean-up to allow the bylaws to be consistent with each other.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items. Second by Councilwoman Middelstaedt. Carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Mr. Burch noted that FDOTs I-75 study, from 951 to Lee/Charlotte County line, was started in February. This study would look at the future needs of the interstate, potential widening to 10 or 8 lanes. The study will also evaluate the feasibility of a few requested interchanges. The study would take approximately three to five years; once completed the study will make it possible to prioritize projects by most critical need.

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin noted that staff is in discussion with FDOT about a possible swap of SU funds in the current FY2019 that have not been obligated. Staff would like to swap these funds to replace Advance Construction SU on a County ITS project. A full report will be provided to the Board in April concerning meeting the annual fiscal constraint that FDOT faces and the potential of expanding the Board's current policy on how the SU funds are allocated.

7. Committee Chair Report

7.A.1. Citizen Advisory Committee Chair Report

Ms. McLaughlin provided a summary to the Board.

Commissioner Fiala noted that in the Chair report it was mentioned that there was conversation about limiting some of the pavements on a few trails. Commissioner Fiala stated that the County is currently working on elevating Goodland Rd. and she would like the project manager to inform the Conservancy of the County's plans. **Ms. McLaughlin** noted that the Conservancy acknowledged that they are working with County staff and are aware that Goodland Rd. will be elevated and that changes to the roadway will be done.

7.B.1 Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

Ms. McLaughlin provided a summary to the Board.

7.C.1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair Report

Ms. McLaughlin provided a summary to the Board.

7.D.1 Congestion Management Committee Chair Report

7.E.1 Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

8. Regular Board Action (Roll Call Required)

8.A. Approval of Amendment to the FY2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Ortman noted that FDOT has requested an amendment to FY2019- FY2023 TIP to ensure authorization of Federal Lands Highways funds and planning consistency. The project is from the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration to rehabilitate Fritz Rd. in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge at a cost of \$750,000. The MPO posted the amendment for the required 21- day public comment period from December 18, 2018 through January 8, 2019; no public comments were received. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) endorsed the amendment and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) voted to continue discussion of the amendment to their next meeting in order to receive additional information about the project.

Ms. McLaughlin noted that improvements to Fritz Rd were requested by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for better access to the Preserve. Additional access will be provided for the visitor center and improvements will be done where the road connects to SR29 to allow a safer route for the public and staff off of SR29 which has high speed traffic. The concern the CAC had was that the improvements done on Fritz Rd. would be for purposes other than preserving wildlife. The USFWS states that the improvements were requested to facilitate better management of the Preserve.

Commissioner McDaniel expressed concerns regarding the high cost for improvements on Fritz Rd. and how the project would be beneficial for wildlife. Noted that he has requested improvements to different areas in the highway system.

Ms. McLaughlin noted that the project is slated for FY2020 and will be using Federal funds that are only available for use on Federal land. The Federal agency is who determines where these funds are allocated; they are requesting the project be amended into the TIP as a courtesy in order to have it available for the public to see.

Mr. Gaither stated that FDOT will bring additional information back to the Board.

Commissioner McDaniel noted that the County has a great deal of roads in Federal lands that would be beneficial to both wildlife and the public if there were improvements done on these roads. Commissioner McDaniel stated that he would like to have discussion on the possibility of reviewing the priorities for Federal funds and determine if there is a possibility to have them relocated.

Secretary Nandam stated that FDOT has no control over the allocation of Federal funds and noted that Federal Lands Highways office is complying with Federal requirements to have these projects added into the MPO's TIP. Secretary Nandam noted that he would get in contact with the Federal administration and ask them to provide additional information on how projects are prioritized for the use of these funds.

Ms. McLaughlin noted that staff will brief the Board on the process on how federal funds are allocated and the reason behind the increase of cost on Fritz Rd.

Commissioner McDaniel made a motion to continue the discussion until further information is made available on how Federal Lands projects are prioritized. Second by Councilman Buxton. Carried unanimously. Roll call vote was taken with the motion passing unanimously.

Councilman Brechnitz Yes

Councilman Hutchison Yes

Councilwoman Middlestaedt Yes

Commissioner McDaniel Yes

Commissioner Fiala Yes

Commissioner Saunders Yes

Councilman Buxton Yes

9. Regular Board Action (No Roll Call)

9.A. Approval of a Work Order for Tindale Oliver Associates to prepare the Transit Impact Analysis

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve a Work Order for Tindale Oliver Associates to prepare the Transit Impact Analysis. Second by Councilwoman Middelstaedt. Carried unanimously.

9.B. Recommendation to award Agreement No. 18-7408, 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., for professional consulting services in the amount of \$599,006 and authorize the Chairman to execute the attached agreement.

Ms. McLaughlin introduced the item and noted that the Board had received a detailed briefing at their previous meeting; Board members indicated that a staff presentation was not necessary.

RaeAnn Burton stated that since 2015 the public has been petitioning and protesting some of the roads that are included in the LRTP, one of them being the “S” curve. Managing growth density and gated communities will eliminate unnecessary roads. Randall Blvd. needs to have left turn and right turn lanes into gated communities and roads; the Publix shopping center needs a right turn lane to avoid accidents. Golden Gate Estates is unique due to its environment and wildlife, but growth density will destroy it. The Board should regulate the growth and avoid decreasing the value of the Estates. The Board should honor the oath to protect the environment and keep the Estates rural for future generation. It’s time to think about those that are already living here, and the wildlife, and not cater to the wealthy and developers wanting to be here. The apartment towers and even gated communities are out of the range of the working class.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve award Agreement No. 18-7408, 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. Second by Councilwoman Middelstaedt. Carried unanimously.

9.C. Adoption of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Mr. Ortman stated that MPO staff and the project consultant, Tindale Oliver, Associates have completed extensive revisions to the initial draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) from

comments that were received from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), TAC, and CAC. The Plan has been thoroughly researched and analyzed, addresses public comment, and incorporates local agency plans and input. The plan was endorsed by BPAC, TAC, and CAC. The Plan provided in the agenda packet still requires a technical edit to correct errors and provide consistent formatting. Staff is recommending the MPO Board adopt the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and grant staff the authority to make minor technical edits prior to distribution and posting of the final adopted document.

Mr. Blain presented the PowerPoint “*Collier MPO – Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*” highlighting:

- The Plan is built on the MPO’s 2017 Existing Conditions Analysis that investigated the existing network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Has been updated through coordination with the bike tourism map that was jointly created by the MPO, City of Naples and Naples Pathways Coalition.
- Local agency bicycle and pedestrian plans and completed Walkability Studies have been incorporated in the plan as references.
- Two key factors were determined to prioritize needs: 1) a review of demographics to identify Environmental Justice Communities using these criteria - low-income, minority, limited English proficiency and zero-vehicle households. 2) determining where there is a concentration of crash statistics and the inverse relationship of traffic speed to pedestrian and bicyclist survivability.
- Figure 5 is a map showing where there are current gaps in the system; many of which don’t have sidewalks or a bicycle facility. 80% of the bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities occur on the County’s major arterials and collectors. An assessment of the crash factors was conducted to determine what were the causal factor of crashes. FDOT’s listing of High Crash Corridors was also included in the Plan to better understand where the need was greater.
- Stakeholder meetings, community events, committee meetings and public open houses were conducted to engage the community and receive comments for the Plan.
- The Plan’s Vision is to provide a safe and comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network that promotes and encourages community use and enjoyment.
- The Plan’s goals are to increase safety, create a network that’s efficient for bicyclists and pedestrians, increase transportation choice for the community, and promote tourism and economic opportunities.
- The Plan recommends conducting several Complete Streets and Corridor Safety Studies in coordination with FDOT and local entities.
- The Spine Trail Vision adds a second alignment to the SunTrail network that aligns well with Lee County plans and includes connections to the Gordon River Greenway and on to Golden Gate City and Immokalee.
- The Plan is structured to provide flexibility to implementing agencies, which will allow each agency to choose from among the various priority lists for collector and arterial roads and local road priorities’ to bring forward projects.
- The design guidelines are meant to serve as guidance rather than as directives because each project will have unique characteristics that must be studied and addressed. The policy statements address the MPO’s role in prioritizing projects for state and federal funding while encompassing the adopted plans of member entities.

- Illustrative cross-sections are provided to show various combinations of facilities allowing for flexibility during implementation.
- Policies and implementation request FDOT to take the lead on State Roads in coordinating in stakeholder input, especially regarding tribal lands and state and federal environmental preserves along US41 east and portions of SR 29.
- Committee members recommended removing driving lane widths and references to speeds on the illustrative cross sections.
- The Plan incorporates the Conservancy's recommendations to remove the Rookery Bay Trail alignment from the SunTrail alignment; to not expand existing paved areas for bike/peg accommodations on Collier Blvd from US 41 to Jolley Bridge, Shell Island Rd, Isle of Capris Rd and Goodland Rd; and to minimize expansion of pavement to accommodate bike lanes on San Marco Rd from Marco Island to US 41.

Councilman Hutchison questioned whether the Plan looks into the composition of a shared used path to consider how it would contribute to the improvement of stormwater management, or if the facility would aggravate or be detrimental to stormwater management. Has the Plan considered exploring the addition of conduit to allow utilities placed underground, improving the County's infrastructure? **Mr. Blain** noted that the Plan has not thoroughly gone into the engineering component, but this is an important component for the MPO and will be researched and brought back to the Board. **Ms. McLaughlin** noted that this topic falls under the purview of the MPO Board and recommendations can be made to have the policy point towards considering stormwater and utilities.

Ms. Avola noted that Naples Pathway Coalition is strongly in support of the Plan, but is asking the MPO Board to consider multi-use pathways a high priority to allow bicyclists to safely ride outside of the roadway. Collier County has a huge gap in not having a network of shared used pathways. Miami is currently completing two hundred miles of separated shared used pathways. If they could accomplish this with a higher percentage of traffic than Collier, what is preventing Collier County? Ms. Avola noted that this would save lives and also bring in tourism dollars.

Commissioner McDaniel expressed concerns regarding the recommendation from staff that the County request Conservancy review and concurrence on the Goodland Road project. Noted that the County has environmental planning staff, road and bridge engineers that give specific recommendations on what needs to be. The Plan must be revised if it empowers an out of government organization to review and issue concurrence. **Mr. Teach** stated that the Board can accept or reject any recommendation presented by staff. **Ms. McLaughlin** noted that the staff recommendation is poorly worded in this case, but the language appears only in Executive Summary and is not in the Plan as a policy statement.

Commissioner McDaniel made a motion to accept staff recommendation minus the request for Conservancy review and concurrence. Second by Councilman Brechnitz. Carried unanimously.

10. Presentations (May Require Board Action)

None.

11. Distribution Items

11. A. Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Legislative Update

12. Member Comment

Commissioner McDaniel noted that there are known improvements to the County's infrastructure and highway system that need to take place and would like to know if there is an opportunity to make an adjustment on how state funds are being appropriated to FDOT.

Councilwoman Middelstaedt noted that Everglades City has been designated a Trail Town and noted that a formal presentation will be held towards the end of April.

Councilman Brechnitz stated that he is pleased to be part of the Board and intends to be an active member.

13. Next Meeting Date

Regular Meeting – April 12, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. Everglades City Hall.

14. Adjourn

With no further comments Councilman Buxton adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.