

**JOINT LEE COUNTY AND COLLIER COUNTY  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

Estero Community Park & Recreation Center, Room 103A  
9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard  
Estero, Florida 33928

9:00 a.m.

April 3, 2008 Meeting Minutes

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Donald Scott, Lee County MPO Director, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Tamika Seaton called the roll for the Collier TAC and Meghan Marion called the roll for the Lee County TAC. Quorums were attained for both the Collier and Lee County TACs. Those in attendance were as follows:

**COLLIER TAC MEMBERS**

Russ Muller, Chair– Present  
Nick Casalanguida, Vice-Chair– Present  
Don Scott – Present  
George Archibald– Present  
Ken Heatherington – Present  
Steve Olmsted– Present  
Trinity Caudill-Scott– Present  
Sue Faulkner, non-voting – Present  
Rony Joel – Absent  
Erv Dehn- Absent  
Robert Tweedie- Absent  
Chuck Mohlke – Absent  
Amy Taylor, non-voting – Absent  
Tammie Nemecek, non-voting - Absent

**COLLIER MPO STAFF**

Phil Tindall, MPO Director  
Lorraine Lantz, Principal Planner  
Brandy Otero, Planner  
Tamika Seaton, Planning Technician

**LEE COUNTY TAC MEMBERS**

Bob Belushack– Present  
Andy Getch – Present  
Steve Myers – Present  
Dawn Gordon – Present  
Persides Zambrano - Present

Leslie Persia- Present  
Eunice Usher – Present  
Barbara Barnes-Buchanan – Present  
Brad Case – Present  
Ken Heatherington – Present  
Phil Tindall – Present  
Trinity Caudill-Scott – Present

### **LEE COUNTY MPO STAFF**

Don Scott, MPO Director  
Meghan Marion, Planning Technician

### **OTHERS**

David Buchheit, Collier County Transportation  
Johnny Limbaugh, FDOT  
Carmen Monroy – Lee County TAC (Alt. for Steve Myers)  
Elizabeth Suchsland, Collier Area Transit  
Julia Davis, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Stephen Leung, DPA  
James Baxter, FDOT  
Amy Perez, FDOT  
Lawrence Massey, FDOT  
Bill Gramer, CH2MHill

## **2. Election of a Chairperson**

**Ms. Barnes-Buchanan: I nominate Mr. Russ Muller for Chairman.**

**Ms. Caudill-Scott: I second the motion.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **3. Action Items**

- A. Determination of Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) priorities for FY 2010/2011 and FY 2011/2012

Mr. Don Scott presented an overview of the TRIP priorities for FY 2010/2011 and FY 2011/2012 and reported on the following:

- There is approximately \$15 million in funding available each year for TRIP projects for District One (12 counties);
- Candidate Project Evaluation and Recommendation of Project Priorities for FY 2010/11 through 2011/12 TRIP Funds as submitted by each MPO;
- Location map for TRIP proposals for FY 2010/11 through FY 2011/12; and
- Lee County and Collier MPO received seven applications for TRIP projects as follows:
  - City of Cape Coral;

- A TRIP request for \$4 million in FY 2010/11 for a construction phase to widen Del Prado Boulevard from SR 78 to Kismet Parkway from four to six lanes;
- A TRIP request for \$12 million in FY 2011/12 for a right of way phase one to widen SR 78 from Burnt Store Road to Chiquita Boulevard from two to four lanes;
- Collier County Transportation Planning;
  - A TRIP request for \$2.9 million in FY 2010/11 for a right of way phase to widen Collier Boulevard from Green Boulevard to Golden Gate Boulevard from 4 to 6 lanes;
  - A TRIP request for \$6 million in FY 2011/12 for a design phase for a new 4-lane extension of Collier Boulevard from Immokalee Boulevard to Bonita Beach Road;
  - A TRIP request for \$2.4 million in FY 2011/12 for a right of way phase for widening Collier Boulevard from Green Boulevard to Golden Gate Main Canal from four to six lanes;
  - A TRIP request for \$7 million in FY 2011/12 for a construction phase to widen Collier Boulevard from Green Boulevard to Golden Gate Boulevard;
- Collier Area Transit;
  - A TRIP request for \$1.05 million in FY 2010/11 for construction of an intermodal transfer facility on US 41 at the entrance to Collier County Government;

Mr. Scott concluded by presenting an overview of scoring projects in the past and entertained a discussion on the current criteria used for ranking projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the scoring system for the TRIP projects.

**Ms. Zambrano: I move to endorse the priorities based on the total points.**

Mr. Scott stated that based on the scores, the TRIP Priorities will be as follows:

- The highest priority for the first year (2010/2011) was the City of Cape Coral TRIP project request for \$4 million in FY 2010/11 for a construction phase to widen Del Prado Boulevard from SR 78 to Kismet Parkway from four to six lanes; and
- The highest priority for the second year (2011/12) was the Collier County TRIP request for \$7 million in FY 2010/11 for the construction phase to widen Collier Boulevard from Green Boulevard to Golden Gate Boulevard from four to six lanes.

**Mr. Heatherington: I second the motion.**

**Ms. Caudill-Scott noted that as part of an agreement with FDOT, all projects accepting TRIP funding, adhere to FDOT's Level of Service (LOS). As done in the past, even if a project is recommended for TRIP funding, if the project does not**

**show the LOS in the Local Comprehensive Plan/Concurrency documentation, then it will not be programmed.**

Ms. Sue Faulkner noted that Collier Area Transit (CAT) scored low based on its facility not being located on the I-75 corridor. Ms. Faulkner added that CAT helps relieve traffic on roadways and relieving traffic was not a criterion on the scoring system for TRIP projects.

Mr. Phil Tindall stated that he was in favor of the motion and was interested in having a discussion about how to address the current criteria so that the same issues would not arise next year.

Mr. Don Scott and Mr. Tindall abstained from voting because they are MPO staff members. Mr. Scott added that perhaps staff should not vote during joint meetings.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion ensued regarding developing a criterion for transit. Mr. Scott read a letter written by Mr. Ben Walker and stated that the criteria for TRIP projects should consider a level of relief to the SIS for points. Mr. Johnny Limbaugh noted that one of the requirements of the TRIP program is for the project to be included in a County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He suggested that as one way to set priorities. **Mr. Limbaugh proposed that the SIS could have a point level criterion. If relief is realized to an SIS facility, a point can be given. Ms. Caudill-Scott added that the point system could be graduated according to the LOS reached. Mr. Scott stated that staff would bring TRIP criteria back to Lee County MPO and Collier MPO for discussion and propose criteria.** Mr. Limbaugh concluded by presenting an overview of FDOT's possible revenue shortfalls. **Ms. Caudill-Scott suggested that transit projects could gain points on the MPO's unfunded list by having those projects on a Transit Development Plan (TDP) unfunded list.**

#### B. Changes to the Bi-County Joint Regional Transportation Networks

Mr. Scott presented an overview of the changes to the Bi-County Joint Regional Transportation Networks and stated that on September 18, 2007, the Joint Lee-Collier Pathways Advisory Committee (PAC) met to review Bike/Pedestrian projects to coordinate the update of regional maps to be more consistent with multi-modal components. The committee voted on identifying regional pathways priorities and proposed a facility along Business 41 between Bonita Beach Road in Lee County and Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Collier County.

Discussion ensued regarding the Bi-County Joint Regional Transportation Network. Ms. Brandy Otero, Collier MPO Planner, announced that the Collier MPO is currently working with Collier County on their Florida Power & Light (FPL) Trail Feasibility Study to research the feasibility of implementing a multi-use trail along the FPL easement from Collier County to Lee County. Ms. Otero concluded by stating that the FPL Study was a six month study and the findings are anticipated in November.

Mr. Bob Beluschak and Mr. Andy Getch distributed a map of Lee County and entertained discussion on the Lee County Greenways Master plan.

Ms. Barbara Barnes-Buchanan added that the City of Bonita Springs is working with State and local agencies to assemble easements to put a trail together. Ms. Barnes-Buchanan concluded by stating that she has had discussions with FDOT regarding some of their lands and is researching ways to go under I-75 to connect to Dean Street and the trail system, so it can go through Bonita Springs. Ms. Barnes-Buchanan proposed coordinating with Mr. Beluschak to update Lee County's Greenway map.

According to Mr. Getch, Mr. Fred Johnson, Lee County Parks and Recreation, was the lead person coordinating the Lee County Greenways Plan. Mr. Getch presented an overview of Lee County's trails and greenways and invited anyone who was interested in the topic to contact him for more information.

**Mr. Beluschak announced that the Lee County Planning staff would like the opportunity to meet with the Joint PAC before voting on this issue. He explained that the Lee County Greenways Master Plan considers pathways as a first order network because they connect to urban areas. Mr. Beluschak concluded by requesting to table the changes to the Bi-County Joint Regional Transportation Networks pathways component until it goes to the joint committees.**

**Mr. Heatherington: I move to table the Bi-County Joint Regional Transportation Network.**

**Mr. Getch: I second the motion.**

Ms. Caudill-Scott asked about the ramifications of adopting the Bi-County Joint Regional Transportation Network and making additions to it at the next meeting in the fall. If a grant opportunity arises through the Office of Greenways and Trails, it would be beneficial to have an adopted plan in place.

Discussion ensued regarding tabling the Bi-County Joint Regional Transportation Network. Mr. Getch added that if there is no pressing timeframe for adopting the Bi-County Network; he proposed that the committee take more time for revisions and additions so that when an agency goes for a grant application, a consistency issue is not raised. Ms. Barnes-Buchanan was concerned that if a grant opportunity arises, there would be no plan in place to support it.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Muller and Ms. Barnes-Buchanan dissented.

C. Update to the SIS priorities

Mr. Scott presented an overview of the update to the SIS priorities and stated that the proposed update to the regional priorities for SIS or statewide discretionary funding would have some administrative changes to make it consistent with what is being done.

Mr. Limbaugh presented an overview of FDOT's SIS plan and stated that the number one priority is the construction phase two of the I-75 airport access, which would connect I-75 to

the midfield terminal at Southwest Florida International Airport. This project is currently not in FDOT's 2035 SIS Plan and is half funded.

Discussion ensued regarding the update to the SIS priorities.

**Ms. Usher: I move to approve.**

**Mr. Heatherington: I second the motion.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. District One Presentation of the Districtwide Model

Mr. Scott stated that the Districtwide model was developed to address cross-county model issues. The model would be used specifically for the Babcock Ranch DRI located on the Lee/Charlotte county line and the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study is currently underway. When the Long Range Plans are updated, the Districtwide model will more effectively analyze the impacts of development and interaction between Hendry, Collier, and Lee Counties. Mr. Scott concluded by stating that the Districtwide Model development by FDOT was not an adopted model and does not replace the MPO's models. Use of the MPO's models versus the district wide model will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. James Baxter, FDOT, presented an overview of District One's Districtwide Model and reported on the following:

- Districtwide Model values;
- Districtwide Model updating process;
- Validation results of the model; and
- MPO/TPO options.

Mr. Baxter concluded by stating that FDOT is asking the MPOs to concur on using the model.

Discussion ensued regarding District One's Districtwide Model. Mr. Scott proposed going forward and using the model for the Babcock Ranch DRI and the SR 31 and SR 78 PD&E. In the future, the individual MPOs would adopt a new model, take out the regional portions, and have the entire county boundary crossing information correct. Mr. Getch felt the model was a good tool to analyze the Babcock Ranch DRI and stated that a model developed by the state would be unbiased. Mr. Nick Casalanguida stated that Collier County model update is underway and the County will be prepared next year to coordinate with Lee County to update the model.

**Mr. Getch: I move to approve staff's recommendation.**

**Mr. Casalanguida: I second the motion.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Reports and Presentations**

A. Discussion about the inconsistency of Old US 41 in the Lee and Collier MPO Long Range Plans

Mr. Scott stated that this item was for discussion only and did not require approval. This item is based on the Joint Lee/Collier PAC meeting held on September 18, 2007. At the meeting, Ms. Barbara Barnes-Buchanan, City of Bonita Springs, stated that there was an inconsistency between Lee and Collier Counties Long Range Plans. Mr. Scott concluded by reporting on the following inconsistencies:

- The Lee County MPO's Adopted Year 2015 Interim Plan reflects the 1.2 mile segment of Old US 41 (CR 887) from the Collier County Line to Bonita Beach Road as a Financially Feasible improvement. However, the Collier MPO's 2015 Financially Feasible Highway Plan *does not* include improvements to the 1.5 mile segment of Old US 41 from US 41 to the Lee County Line; and
- Old US 41 is currently a two-lane undivided urban collector highway as reflected in the E+C roadway networks of both plans. Both MPOs reflect needed expansions to four lanes in their respective 2030 cost feasible plans.

Ms. Barnes-Buchanan confirmed that Old US 41 in the Lee and Collier MPO's Long Range Plans is still a project that Bonita Springs would like to move forward with in the 2015 timeframe. Ms. Barnes-Buchanan concluded by stating that Bonita Springs would like the opportunity to coordinate with Collier County.

Mr. Scott stated that at the moment, the project was in Collier's 2030 Cost Feasible Plan, not in their 2015.

**Mr. Casalanguida stated that Collier County would work with Bonita Springs on the project.**

Discussion ensued regarding Lee and Collier MPO's Long Range Plans.

B. Review of the draft Joint Lee/Collier MPO Long Range Plan Update Scope

Mr. Scott presented an overview of Lee County MPO's Long Range Plan and stated that Lee County MPO and Collier MPO proposed coordinating to develop a Joint Scope of Services to update their Long Range Transportation Plans and hiring one consultant. The Scope will include sharing the cost and having separate invoices. The MPOs anticipate a more cost feasible and better end product by sharing tasks in the Long Range Plans. The draft Plan was provided to the committee for review and comment, the final version will be presented to each MPO's committees and MPO Boards separately. All committee suggestions will be incorporated into the document. Mr. Scott concluded by reporting on the following:

- Statewide, the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) wants the MPOs to report information in a uniform format;
- The Joint Long Range Plan is anticipated to be adopted by the end of 2010; and
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) is anticipated to go out in the summer and the goal is to bring the final negotiated contract to the fall meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding reformulating the Joint Long Range Plan. Mr. Scott stated that the MPOs would work with each jurisdiction on the LRTP. Any additional comments or revisions to the document can be sent to Lee County MPO and they will be incorporated in the draft scope. Mr. Scott stated that the MPOs anticipate using Collier's MPO RFP selection process because it is more stringent than Lee County's RFP process.

**Ms. Caudill-Scott stated that FDOT normally authorizes funding for the MPO's quarterly (usually in July). She suggested that the Joint MPO RFP add language stating that only specifically named tasks can be invoiced from July to October. This way money will still be available to pay staff in case the MPO has to encumber funds. If the MPOs anticipate more funds are needed to pay for consultant services, they should inform FDOT ahead of time so they can ask for additional authorization. Ms. Caudill-Scott encouraged the MPOs to make the minor changes to the scope and forward it to FDOT. FDOT and the Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) will then begin their review and approval process of the scope so that Planning (PL) funding can be authorized.** Mr. Casalanguida asked about the ramifications of utilizing consultant services from a qualified list of firms. Ms. Caudill-Scott responded by stating the MPOs would have to advertise the RFP within the federal guidelines. Collier MPO is aware of the process and they have a supplement to their contract. **Ms. Otero stated that the Collier MPO had recently gone through the process for their General Planning Contract (GPC) and will forward a copy to Mr. Scott.**

#### C. Regional Public Involvement Plan web pages

Mr. Scott stated that as required in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the MPOs have to implement a Joint web site for Lee and Collier Counties' regional activities. The Joint Website will include the MPOs' joint plans, documents, maps and meeting minutes. Mr. Scott concluded asking the committee to email him comments or suggestions for improvements the web site and reported on the following files that will be included on both web sites under a section entitled "Joint-Lee-Collier."

- The MPO logos;
- Joint TAC/CAC and JOINT MPO calendar;
- 2030 Cost Feasible Lee/Collier Model FSUTMS files;
- GIS Files that will include Joint Regional Highways, Transit, Pathways components as well as the Needs network for the first order facilities;
- Regional Priorities List;
- TRIP Criteria;
- TRIP Priorities;
- Agendas for Joint Meetings; and
- Minutes from Joint Meetings.

## 5. FDOT Report

Mr. Limbaugh reported on the following:

- FDOT estimated revenue for District One over the next five years;
- Currently, FDOT does not anticipate removing any projects from Lee or Collier Counties;
- The House of Representatives is proposing \$700 million (\$2.3 billion) reduction in Federal revenue in 2008/09 statewide; and
- The I-75 Road Expansion Project (IROX) is 30 days ahead of schedule.

**6. Transit Update**

Ms. Sue Faulkner, Collier Area Transit (CAT), announced that the new CAT facility opened on February 8, 2008. The address is: 8300 Radio Road, Naples, Florida 34104. Ms. Faulkner invited the committee to visit the new facility.

Ms. Julia Davis announced that LeeTran's TRIP grant for \$3 million for 2007/08 funding is anticipated to be signed and transmitted to FDOT.

**7. Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

**8. Member's Comments**

No member comments were received.

**9. Information Items**

No information items were distributed.

**10. Adjournment of Joint TAC meeting**

Having no further business, the Joint TAC meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:42 a.m.