

Honorable Members of the Lee County Legislative Delegation

I am here representing Lee County MPO as a voting member representing Bonita Springs, Immediate past Chairman of the MPO, City Councilman from Bonita Springs, and as a Registered professional Architect both in Florida and Ohio, as well as a Registered Professional Engineer in Ohio. I will be speaking on two unrelated topics today.

Topics 1 - The first topic is to request the Lee Delegation to sponsor a Local (if applicable) or a Bill or an Amendment to an applicable Highway Bill designating the portion of I-75 in Lee County as a "Purple Heart Highway". At joint meeting in Punta Gorda of the Lee and Charlotte MPO's in February of both 2019 and 2021, these two joint MPO's unanimously endorsed getting their respective section of I-75 designated as a "Purple Heart Highway." It is highly probable that the Collier MPO will want their section of I-75 designated as a "Purple Heart Highway" too. A majority of County Commission was represented at the Lee and Charlotte 2019 and 2021 February joint Meetings who, with all the other members, unanimously supported this proposal. The only cost is a plaque erected when entering and leaving each of the County's portion of I-75. In addition, I believe we can get the Veteran fraternal organizations such as VFW, American Legion and Am Vets Posts in these counties to step up and install a Plaque at the Rest Stop area, possibly listing recipients of the county who received a Purple Heart or other background information about local Purple Heart Hero's. Please See page 5 of the Minutes of February 22, 2019, Agenda Item 10 and page 3 of the Minutes for February 22, 2021, Agenda Item 8 for more information on proposal for designating I-75 in Charlotte and Lee Counties a Purple Heat Highway. Also see, JOINT RESOLUTION 2021 – 01 supporting making I-75 in Charlotte and Lee Counties a Purple Heart Highway.

Topics 2 – The recent collapse of the 1980's vintage Condo in Surfside Florida resulting in a significant loss of life (exact number yet to be determined at this time) has brought into sharp focus the need for State Legislation to be swiftly enacted requiring periodic inspection of multi floor buildings not just residential, but commercial/industrial buildings to determine the building is structurally sound and meets critical life safety codes. Recertifications must be accomplished by firms or individual licensed engineers with appropriate experience and type of engineering discipline to accurately accomplish the recertification process.

A special Committee of registered engineers with appropriate experience and discipline should be appointed with the task to develop rules or regulations for all existing mid and high-rise buildings. These rules would determine the following: age at which inspections and recertifications commence, building heights and number of stories, type of materials and structural design versus age, use and location of the building are all most of the key factors to determine frequency of inspections, extent and type of inspection and investigation. Buildings located further from the ocean or gulf have less exposure to salt water mists, storm surge, maximum hurricane force and strong wind action on the building plus the impact of soil makeup all of which could affect how often inspection, as well as extent of inspection/recertification should be done. These are just a few of the factors that should be

determined and ultimately defined by the legislation required State regulations ensuring the structural integrity of all existing mid to high-rise buildings.

Almost everything the public is dependent on are required by law to be inspected. It is imperative that we now move forward on inspections for these buildings. Tall multipurpose buildings are not unique to our city or SE Florida, they are in almost every part of the state. Hence State legislation is critically needed.

I am a revisited Architect in Florida and Ohio, but also a Registered Engineer in Ohio. Many decades of experience in building design, as wells several decades in the Aerospace/Aircraft Industry so I am very familiar with inspection and reasons for recertifications. I am more than willing to assist anyone in our delegation, Collier's and Charlotte's or Hendry's, to provide technical advice and resource in drafting the type of Bill I am advocating or any Bill less or more stringent than I have proposed. Thank you for considering these requests or proposals.

Respectfully,

Fred Forbes, City Councilman
City of Bonita Springs
Immediate past Chairman Lee MPO
Lee MPO Representative to State MPO Board



JOINT MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD AND LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

February 22, 2019

9:30 a.m.

**Lee County Administration East Building
2201 Second Street, Room 118
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220**

LEE COUNTY MPO/CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Joint Meeting with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization was called to order by Chair Mick Denham at 9:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Don Scott called the roll for the Lee County MPO Board. A quorum was present. The Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Frank Mann, Brian Hamman, John Manning, and Cecil Pendergrass; City of Fort Myers Councilmember Fred Burson; Town of Fort Myers Beach Mayor Tracey Gore; City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor/MPO Board Chair Mick Denham; City of Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn and Councilmember Fred Forbes; and Village of Estero Mayor Jim Boesch.

Others in attendance included L. K. Nandam, Lawrence Massey, and Michael Tisch with FDOT; Dave Murphy with Lee County; Brian Barnes with Charlotte County; Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO staff Gary Harrell, Bekie Leslie, and Lakshmi Gurram; Charlotte County Legal Counsel Janette Knowlton; Joan LeBeau with the City of Punta Gorda; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott and Ron Gogoi; Robert Codle with LeeTran; Lee County IT Services; Persides Zambrano with Cape Coral; Derek Rooney and Matt Roepstorff with Gray Robinson; Karen Brunelle with Federal Highways; Gary Nelson with Kitson and Partners; Anne Hosford with Raise the Arches Inc.; Dave Ulrich with the Responsible Growth Management Coalition; and John Majka with Superior Sheds.

Agenda Item #2 - Chairs' Comments/Previous Meeting Summary

Lee County MPO Chair Mick Denham asked if there were any comments on the Previous Meeting Summary. Charlotte County Commissioner/Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Chair Chris Constance thanked the Lee County MPO Board for meeting and agreeing to hold the Joint Meeting first. Mr. Scott noted that the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO also need to call their roll.

Ms. Bekie Leslie called the roll for the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO. A quorum was present. The Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Board Members in attendance included Charlotte County Commissioners Chris Constance, and Stephen Deutsch; Commissioner Joseph Tiseo was not present Charlotte County Airport Authority Commissioner Paul Andrews; and City of Punta Gorda Vice-Mayor Lynne Matthews.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on the Agenda Items

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

Agenda Item #4 - Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Brain Hamman made the motion to approve the agenda. Mayor James Boesch seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Status Report on the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements

Lee County MPO Board Chair Mick Denham introduced this agenda item for the Status Report on the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements. Mr. Scott said he would begin the status report from the south end of Burnt Store Road in Lee County. He said from Pine Island to Tropicana construction is programmed for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 with scheduled completion in fall of 2023. He continued that the second section from Tropicana to Diplomat is currently under construction with completion planned for spring of 2020. He added construction of the north section from Diplomat to Van Buren was completed last year. He continued that the final section, from Van Buren to the Charlotte County line, has a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Phase scheduled to begin next fiscal year with the construction in the Cost Feasible Plan in the 2031 to 2040 time frame. He said this will be further addressed in the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Commissioner Hamman asked the length of the section from Van Buren to the Charlotte County line. Mr. Scott replied it is approximately six miles. Commissioner Hamman asked the project cost. Mr. Scott replied \$70 million, from the Long Range Plan. Commissioner Hamman asked how long the PD&E scheduled for next year would take. Mr. Scott replied FDOT guidelines indicate at minimum two to three years and up to four years depending on the type of PD&E that is required. Commissioner Hamman asked for options to be explored to advance the construction phase to immediately follow the PD&E. Mr. Scott said he could coordinate with the county and possibly go after TRIP for funding. Commissioner Hamman mentioned the Super Street concept along Veterans and Burnt Store and asked if it would be more cost effective to transition to a more traditional four lane in this stretch of Lee County. Charlotte County Commissioner Chris Constance said that Phases I and III that are completed follow this concept and Phase II will line up as well. Commissioner Hamman asked if there are long range plans to six lane the roadway. Mr. Gary Harrell said there is room to accommodate six lanes, but it is not in the current LRTP. Commissioner Stephen Deutsch gave a brief history of the regional model for MPO coordination that was created by the Lee County and Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPOs. Lee County MPO Board Chair Mick Denham asked if Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO would like to present on the Charlotte section of Burnt Store Road. Mr. Gary Harrell said that Charlotte County has divided their portion of Burnt Store Road into three phases with Phases I and III completed. He added Phase II is currently being worked on. Mr. Harrell then introduced Charlotte County Traffic Engineer Mr. Brian Barnes to further discuss Phase II. Mr. Barnes said that Phase III was completed with a large median to accommodate any future expansion to six lanes. He said that Phase II will follow that same design with the bidding process to begin soon. Commissioner Hamman suggested determining where the super street design could transition into the traditional four lane design possibly saving money and enabling the construction to be advanced. Commissioner Constance questioned the time frame for Phase II in Charlotte County. Mr. Barnes said they expect to be out to bid in spring, contract awarded in summer, and construction beginning in fall. Commissioner Constance asked if the project would take eighteen months. Mr. Barnes said it would be closer to two years. Lee County MPO Board Chair Denham asked if there were any other Board comments. There were none. He asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #6 - Status Report on the Babcock Ranch Development and the SR 31 Improvements

Lee County MPO Board Chair Denham introduced this agenda item on the Status Report on the Babcock Ranch Development and the SR 31 Improvements. Mr. Scott said they would start south and work north with the report. He added that Mr. Gary Nelson with Babcock was present to discuss the middle portion they will widen from the Babcock development to SR 78. Mr. Scott then discussed the segment of SR 31 from SR 80 to SR 78 noting the PD&E is programmed for this year with bridge repairs and rehab scheduled for FY 2019/2020. Mr. Harrell then discussed the Charlotte County portion north of Babcock Ranch noting the high crash intersection at SR 31 and CR 74 will soon have a fully functional signal to replace the current flashing only signal. Mr. Harrell said the Long Range Plan for this intersection involves a roundabout with the Design beginning this summer and possible construction funding in the next FDOT Work Program update.

Commissioner Mann expressed concern for the deadliness of this intersection and advocated advancing the roundabout project. Mr. L. K. Nandam noted a concrete pavement project had been changed into the roundabout design. He added opportunities for construction funding will be looked at in the next work program cycle. He said the Design would take at least two years and any funding for construction will be beyond that. He noted that is why the interim improvement of the full functional signal is being implemented currently. Commissioner Deutsch commented on the single lane configuration with lack of shoulders and the commercial traffic along the roadway that combine to make a dangerous situation. Commissioner Constance noted the roundabout has been brought up continuously at the meetings and thanked FDOT for converting the concrete project to design for the roundabout. Commissioner Mann again noted his support for the project. Mr. Gary Nelson then reviewed the phases of the roughly five-mile section of SR 31 widening. He said the first phase is from SR 78 to CR 78 and approximately 1.53 miles. He said the next phase is from CR 78 to Cook Brown in Charlotte County. He added they are hoping to begin engineering this year with permitting in 2020 and construction in 2021 or 2022. He discussed the funding for the phases. There were no additional questions or comments.

Agenda Item #7 - Update on the SUN Trail Projects in Lee and Charlotte Counties

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item as an update on the SUN Trail projects in Lee County. He showed a slide of the current SUN Trail map mentioning the two Lee County projects of John Yarbrough Linear Park Extension and the Kismet Parkway Trail.

Mr. Gary Harrell then presented information on the Charlotte County SUN Trail network. He said they have been successful in advancing two projects through SUN Trail. He said the first project was a pedestrian bridge on US 41, and the second project was a pedestrian underpass on US 41. He noted the next project is a feasibility study along SR 776 from Murdock Village in Charlotte County to Myakka State Forest in Sarasota County. He mentioned the recent completion of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan recommended a feasibility study from SUN Trail to examine possible configurations to work through the Murdock Village CRA. Mr. Harrell asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Mann noted that SUN stands for Shared Use Non-Motorized and asked what the typical segment of these trails look like. Mr. Harrell said the recommendation is twelve-foot asphalt where possible for shared use of pedestrians and cyclists. Commissioner Mann noted concern for placing cyclists on the sides of fast moving highways and advocated for separate paths off-road to minimize accidents with cyclists and cars. Commissioner Constance mentioned that design standards are requiring an additional \$800,000 to elevate the pedestrian bridge on US 41 due to possible flooding. Chair Denham asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #8 - Information on the I-75 Purple Heart Highway Designation Efforts

Commissioner Deutsch introduced this agenda item as he is a veteran and supports this designation. He added that he would like to see the surrounding counties of Sarasota and Lee support the designation on I-75 in their areas as well. He asked Mr. Harrell to further explain the history and process for designation. Mr. Harrell said this began in 1992 with the desire to have a Purple Heart designated trail in all 50 states, which has been accomplished. Mr. Harrell reviewed several roadways that have been designated. He said it is a legislative process to have the highways designated with one sign every hundred miles. He added it is not an MPO process but the MPOs can bring this to their counties and legislators. Mr. Harrell then showed a slide of the current designation along I-75. He said the Sarasota and Manatee County Commissioners are taking it to their Boards for action. He said the next step would be to move it along to the legislators. There was a brief discussion as to the timing of the proposal to the legislators and additional measures like recognition plaques at rest areas. Commissioner Mann suggested sending letters from the MPOs to support this. Chair Denham asked Mr. Scott if this was possible. Mr. Scott replied yes.

Councilmember Forbes made a motion to compose a resolution from the two MPO Boards in support of the effort to designate the Lee and Charlotte portions of I-75 a Purple Heart Highway, with the ultimate goal of the entire length of I-75 being designated. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion.

Commissioner Constance suggested the Lee County Commissioners bring it back to their Board to also pass a resolution as a county in addition to bringing to their legislators and delegates. Councilmember Forbes suggested each of the cities could adopt resolutions as well. Mayor Jim Boesch noted that the Village of Estero recently became a Purple Heart Village.

There were no objections, and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Mr. L. K. Nandam announced that Mr. Kevin Thibault has been appointed FDOT's new Secretary by recently elected Governor Ron DeSantis.

Mr. Michael Tisch reported that the project priorities have been received from both Charlotte and Lee Counties, and FDOT staff has started to evaluate those priorities.

Agenda Item #10 - Next Meeting Date

Mr. Gary Harrell said that late February works well for Charlotte County. Chair Denham asked where it would be held next year. Mr. Harrell said they will work on a location.

Agenda Item #11 - Staff Comments

There were no staff comments.

Agenda Item #12 - Member Comments

Commissioner Deutsch thanked the Lee County MPO for their hospitality.

Agenda Item #13 - Public Comments

Mr. Dave Ulrich with the Responsible Growth Management Coalition gave public comment on creating a way to move traffic from Tucker's Grade to Burnt Store.

Agenda Item #14 - Adlournment

Chair Denham asked Mr. Scott if there was any further business. Mr. Scott replied nothing except the Lee only meeting that will immediately follow the adjournment of the current joint meeting.

The joint meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:21 a.m.

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard on each of the above items. Written comments filed with the MPO will be considered. Copies of all of the above proposed documents are available by calling the Lee MPO Office at 239-244-2220 or the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Office at 941-883-3535.

THIS NOTICE is published pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Laws, Florida Statutes and MPO Policy. NO STENOGRAPHIC RECORD BY A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER IS MADE OF THIS MEETING. ACCORDINGLY, ANY PERSON WHO MAY SEEK TO APPEAL ANY DECISIONS INVOLVING THE MATTER NOTICED HEREIN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE AT THIS MEETING UPON WHICH ANY APPEAR IS TO BE BASED.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Lee MPO at 239-244-2220 or the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO at 941-883-3535 at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

THE MPO'S PLANNING PROCESS IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND RELATED STATUTES. ANY PERSON OR BENEFICIARY WHO BELIEVES HE/SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY OR FAMILY STATUS MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE LEE MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR CALANDRA BARRACO (239) 244-2220 OR BY WRITING HER AT P. O. Box 150045, CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA 33915 OR THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR WENDY W. SCOTT AT (941) 883-3535 OR BY WRITING HER AT 25550 HARBOR VIEW ROAD, SUITE 4, PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33980

JOINT RESOLUTION 2019 - 01

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEE COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE CHARLOTTE
COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
SUPPORTING THE PURPLE HEART HIGHWAY DESIGNATION EFFORTS
FOR I-75 IN LEE AND CHARLOTTE COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, the Lee County and Charlotte-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organizations have been meeting jointly to coordinate regional transportation and policy issues since 2010 consistent with our joint agreement; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,800,000 Purple Heart medals have been awarded to our military personnel and there are an estimated 500,000 living veterans who are Purple Heart recipients; and

WHEREAS, the Lee and Charlotte MPO Board members appreciate the members of the Armed Services who were wounded in combat and honored with a Purple Heart Medal; and

WHEREAS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States has been coordinating national efforts to establish the Purple Heart Trail consisting of major interstate highways and roadways; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Purple Heart Trail designation and signage is to take a moment to remember the bloodshed and the ultimate sacrifice that has been paid for the nations freedom; and

WHEREAS, the section of I-75 from the Georgia State line down to Marion County is currently designated a Purple Heart Highway;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEE COUNTY AND CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS:

Recommend and support the designation of I-75 within Lee and Charlotte-Punta Gorda MPO areas as part of the national Purple Heart Trail and naming this portion of I-75 a Purple Heart Highway.

This Resolution was PASSED and DULY ADOPTED by the Lee County MPO and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO on February 22, 2019.

JOINT RESOLUTION 2019 - 01

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEE COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE CHARLOTTE
COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
SUPPORTING THE PURPLE HEART HIGHWAY DESIGNATION EFFORTS
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This Resolution was PASSED and DULY ADOPTED by the Lee County MPO and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO on February 22, 2019.

Joint Resolution 2019-01

Attest:

LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION

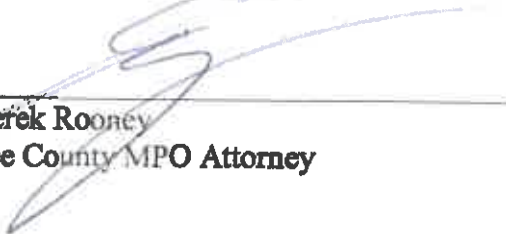
By:


Donald Scott, AICP
Lee County MPO Executive Director

By:


Vice Mayor Mick Denham
Lee County MPO Chair

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:


Derek Rooney
Lee County MPO Attorney


Attest:

CHAROTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION

By:


Gary D. Harrell
Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Director

By:


Commissioner Christopher G. Constance
Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO
Chair

Approved as to form and legality:


Janette S. Knowlton, Counsel to the MPO Board



**JOINT MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD AND LEE COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**Charlotte Harbor Event and Convention Center
75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida
Hibiscus Hall A and B, at 10:00 a.m.
Friday, February 19, 2021**

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Roll Call/Invocation

The meeting was called to order by Charlotte County Commissioner/Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Chair Joseph Tiseo at 10:00 a.m. The members introduced themselves. There was a quorum for each MPO present. Those present are as follows:

Lee County MPO Board

Commissioner Frank Mann	Lee County Commission
Commissioner Brian Hamman	Lee County Commission
Commissioner Raymond Sandelli	Lee County Commission
Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown	City of Fort Myers
Councilmember Johnny Streets, Jr.	City of Fort Myers
Councilmember Fred Burson	City of Fort Myers
Councilmember Darla Betzer Bonk	City of Fort Myers
Councilmember Richard Johnson	City of Sanibel
Mayor John Gunter	City of Cape Coral
Councilmember Tom Hayden	City of Cape Coral
Councilmember Dan Sheppard	City of Cape Coral
Councilmember Fred Forbes	City of Bonita Springs
Councilmember Laura Carr	City of Bonita Springs
MPO Chair/Mayor William Ribble	Village of Estero
Vice-Mayor Katy Errington	Village of Estero

Charlotte – Punta Gorda MPO Board

MPO Chair/Commissioner Joseph Tiseo	Charlotte County Commission
MPO Vice-Chair/Commissioner Christopher	Charlotte County Commission

Constance, M.D.
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Commissioner James Herston
Mayor Lynne Matthews

Charlotte County Commission
Charlotte County Airport Authority
City of Punta Gorda

Others in attendance included: Donald Scott, Calandra Barraco and Ranjit Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; Gary Harrell, Bekie Leslie, and Lakshmi N. Gurram with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO; Stacy Bjordahl, Attorney for the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, Derek Rooney, Attorney for the Lee County MPO; L. K. Nandam, Wayne Gaither, Jesten Abraham, Joshua Jester and Victoria Peters (FDOT); Nicole Harris (FDOT/Stantec); Lindsay Johnson (Charlotte County); Wally Blain (Tindale Oliver); Ned Baier (Volkert); Katie Habgood (Jacobs Engineering); Peyton McLeod (Patel, Greene & Associates); Fabiana Solano (City of Punta Gorda); Persides Zambrano (Cape Coral); Rich Walker (GHD); and Charles Council (CC/PG MPO's CAC).

Commissioner Herston gave an invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda Item #2 - Chairs' Comments

Commissioner Tiseo asked for all cell phones to be silenced. He also asked for members to introduce themselves each time before they commented.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Agenda Item #4 - Approval of Agenda

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2021 JOINT LEE/CHARLOTTE MPO MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAMMAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #5 - FDOT Report

Mr. L. K. Nandam with FDOT presented the FDOT Report. Mr. Nandam's report contained information on the CARES Act Relief Bill, September Revenue Estimating Conference projections, next Revenue Estimating Conference meeting date, gas tax revenue discussions and alternate solutions, and an M-Cores update. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any member comments. There were none. Mr. Jesten Abraham with FDOT then provided information on the upcoming Virtual Safety Summit being held March 4. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any member comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #6 - I-75 Managed Lanes Study Presentation

Mr. Wayne Gaither with FDOT introduced Mr. Joshua Jester (FDOT) and Ms. Nicole Harris (FDOT/Stantec) to present this agenda item on the I-75 Managed Lanes Study. Ms. Harris provided a PowerPoint presentation with slides that included information on study update, program history, key milestones, origin/destination traffic data, virtual public meeting preview, revising the direction of the project, new project direction, planning and feasibility phase with upcoming deliverables, and upcoming events and milestones. The presentation provided by

Ms. Harris can be viewed here: [I-75 Managed Lanes Study Presentation](#). Ms. Harris asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any comments. Commissioner Herston, referencing slide four, asked if the distribution of linear miles is even across each corridor. Ms. Harris replied the North and South corridors are each forty miles, and she was unsure of the length of the Central corridor. Commissioner Herston then asked about slide eight regarding public involvement. Ms. Harris noted the involvement was virtual for both North and South, and public from both areas visited the project website. Commissioner Herston, referring to slide nine, then questioned if the goals of FDOT have changed over the last thirty years. Mr. Nandam replied that the process to determine future needs is adjusted with practices. Mr. Nandam also mentioned long term goals, identifying goals, issues with limited funding, and dividing projects into smaller segments to move projects forward. Commissioner Herston then referred to slide ten and asked about target demand and horizon time spans. Mr. Nandam asked if Commissioner Herston was specifically referring to this program. Commissioner Herston replied that it could be confined to this program since it is the subject of the presentation. Mr. Nandam replied that this program will identify both long and short term needs and demand. Commissioner Herston commented that FDOT was the most consequential department in the state as well as the state's greatest asset. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any comments or additional presentations. Commissioner Constance asked about new interchanges proposed in the southern connector area. Ms. Harris said the slide was an overall handout that showed existing interchanges, and the new interchanges were not on the handout referred to. Commissioner Constance asked if the final Master Plan will be completed in 2022. Ms. Harris replied yes. Commissioner Constance asked if the reports were available for the north and south portions. Ms. Harris noted the update is similar for the north except there are new interchanges. Commissioner Constance asked about an interchange near 301 or the Bradenton River. Mr. Nandam said that interchange is near the border of District One and District Seven and most likely included in the District Seven Plan. Mr. Nandam noted District One is south of that area mentioning modifications and requests to examine interchange possibilities in the area near Del Prado Boulevard in Lee County and Everglades in Collier County. Vice-Mayor Errington commented on the amount of litter and debris on I-75 in Lee County. Commissioner Tiseo said the concern will be noted by FDOT staff. Commissioner Hamman questioned future planning to address congestion on I-75. Ms. Harris mentioned managed lanes and interchange improvements as well as partnering with local jurisdictions on arterials. Commissioner Hamman asked about data to assist with this. Ms. Harris commented on the StreetLight data purchased by FDOT. Commissioner Hamman asked where the most congestion on I-75 was located. Ms. Harris replied that data wasn't available yet. Commissioner Hamman asked how quickly this could go from being in the plan to construction. Ms. Harris said the plan will be implemented in summer of 2022 with PD&E in late 2022 or 2023. Commissioner Hamman asked if there were any near future plans to address concerns. Mr. Nandam responded that the study examines short and long term improvements. He continued that the Cost Feasible update will take place later this year and projects could be inserted based on priorities. He added that the Cost Feasible process must be completed first to provide an idea how to proceed. Mr. Nandam noted it was a separate exercise for Lee County to examine the interchange improvements mentioning SR 78 and Daniels Parkway specifically. He concluded that as far as the mainline, an update will be provided once the study is completed. Commissioner Hamman asked about the best type of feedback that could be provided. Mr. Nandam mentioned robust public engagement including providing information on problem areas to FDOT. Commissioner Tiseo commented on additional funding. Mr. Nandam noted it is helpful if local jurisdictions commit to funding their fair share. Commissioner Constance mentioned being proactive and looking at growth. Mr. Nandam commented on the start of the Master Plan study and continued collaboration for identification of roads that will fail as well as partnerships to move projects forward. He provided an example of SR 72 in Sarasota County where growth was identified, and the county worked

with developers on proportionate share/impact fees. Councilmember Laura Carr questioned planning for increased prices/materials costs. Mr. Nandam explained the gas tax and incorporation of inflation in project costs. Commissioner Constance commented on the gas tax and electric vehicles (EV), questioning the best approach/practice for EV legislation. Mr. Nandam replied the best model is the pay as you go/mileage based model. He added that several states already have an EV registration fee that goes directly to the trust fund and this may be an easy short term solution. Commissioner Constance mentioned indexing the gas tax and fuel price increases based on weather and pipeline closures. Mr. Nandam said the average car driver pays around \$300 per year in gas taxes. Commissioner Tiseo suggested impact fees could be adjusted based on gas tax revenue shortages.

Agenda Item #7 - Review and Comment on the Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List

Mr. Scott referred to the table of Joint Trip Priorities that was included in the agenda packet and posted to the MPO websites. The table can also be viewed here: [Joint TRIP Priorities](#). He noted the priorities will be voted on separately at the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Board meeting in May and the Lee County MPO Board meeting in June. Mr. Scott also discussed the criteria followed, regional map, Burnt Store Road as the top priority, and some TRIP funding for every segment of Burnt Store Road. Mr. Harrell added that both MPOs had previously agreed Burnt Store road would be the top priority. He also mentioned the Harborview Road project and the use of a one percent sales tax/local fund source to match the TRIP funds. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any member comments. Commissioner Deutsch referred to previous joint meetings and complimented all on the coordination between Charlotte County and Lee County. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #8 - Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements - Status Update

Mr. Harrell commented on the Burnt Store improvements in Charlotte County. He noted the Phases I and III of Burnt Store Road are complete with Phase III limits from a point just north of the Lee County Line to a point north of Zemel Road and Phase I limits from south of Notre Dame Blvd. to US 41. He added Phase II, from a point north of Zemel Rd to a point south of Notre Dame Blvd, is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2022. He mentioned the project was fully funded in the CIP and this enabled relative ease to provide the required fifty percent match for TRIP funding. Mr. Harrell then introduced Ms. Lindsay Johnson, the Charlotte County manager of the project, to provide a PowerPoint presentation of the Charlotte County progress with Phase II. Ms. Johnson's presentation included slides with information on project cost, design, roadway alignment, schedule, and construction operations. Ms. Johnson's presentation can be viewed here: [Charlotte County Burnt Store Phase II](#). She asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any comments. There were none. Mr. Scott continued this agenda item with a presentation of the Lee County improvements to the Burnt Store corridor. Mr. Scott gave a brief PowerPoint presentation that included slides with information on a map of the segments, southern segment description, middle and north segment description, and Van Buren to North of Charlotte County line description. Mr. Scott's presentation can be accessed here: [Lee County Burnt Store Improvements](#). He asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #9 - Status of Planned SR 31 Improvements

Mr. Scott began the PowerPoint presentation for this agenda item on the Planned SR 31 Improvements with slides that provided information on SR 31 from SR 80 to SR 78 description, SR 31 from SR 78 to Cook Brown description, typical section illustration, public meeting PD&E information, and SR 78 from I-75 to SR 31 information. Mr. Harrell then continued the presentation with details on the roundabout planned at the high crash intersection of SR 31 at CR 74/Bermont Road and project description. Commissioner Mann asked about the status of the roundabout at CR 74. Mr. Harrell responded that it is currently programmed for construction in the Work Program so it should be moving forward in the next few years. Commissioner Mann mentioned the initial traffic impact of Babcock Ranch in Lee County and thanked FDOT for including him in the coordination meetings. Commissioner Deutsch noted the large amount of accidents in the area of the planned roundabout and asked FDOT to consider two lanes in both directions on SR 31. Commissioner Mann noted this intersection has record fatalities and the traffic light hasn't made a difference. Commissioner Constance commented on the alignment. Mr. Nandam noted the alignment was based on avoidance of the existing gas line. He also mentioned meeting with Commissioner Mann in Lee County as well as creating a working group with Lee County and Charlotte County staff for continued collaboration with Babcock Ranch. Commissioner Tiseo referenced the developer agreement for Babcock Ranch that takes into account all of the phases through completion and asked if the Lee County portion was taken into account. Mr. Nandam said there are incremental re-evaluations that ensure input at all stages. Commissioner Tiseo deferred to MPO staff to take notes and be involved. Mr. Harrell commented that Lee and Charlotte County staffs would work with FDOT and the MPOs for coordination. Commissioner Mann asked about the trigger mechanisms as to who pays for what and when. He also mentioned there would be numerous decisions ahead about cost allocations noting much of the traffic from Babcock Ranch currently flows south into Lee County for supplies. Commissioner Tiseo mentioned that one of the triggers is certificate of occupancies. He continued that Babcock Ranch is also developing the commercial property with Publix and Starbucks and the idea to provide all of the community necessities on site. Mr. Scott mentioned one additional slide in the presentation that provided information on extending the northern end of SR 31 back into US 17 near Bartow. The entire presentation can be viewed here: [SR 31 Improvements](#). Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were any more comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #10 - I-75 Purple Heart Highway Initiative

Mr. Harrell explained the work and goals of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He referred to a map of the Purple Heart Highways/Trails in Florida and reviewed the designations. The map can be viewed here: [Purple Heart Highway/Trail Map Florida](#). He added that the possible designation of I-75 as a Purple Heart Memorial Highway in both Charlotte and Lee Counties was discussed at previous joint meetings and a joint resolution was approved in 2019. He noted the end result is to have all of I-75 in Florida designated as a Purple Heart Highway. He added this is not an MPO action but can be coordinated for each county. Commissioner Deutsch noted there are a large number of veterans in Charlotte County and support would be welcomed. Councilmember Fred Forbes mentioned Senate Bill 408 from Senator Bradley of Clay County that could easily include an amendment for Purple Heart designation of I-75 in Lee and Charlotte Counties. He added that the office staff of Senator Rodrigues has a copy. Commissioner Tiseo clarified that there was no action on this item. Mr. Harrell affirmed there was no MPO action, but this could be taken back to each county for support. Mayor Lynne Matthews said that she would present the information to Senator Albritton for support. Commissioner Tiseo noted there was a delegation meeting coming up. Commissioner Deutsch

added both have supported this in the past. Commissioner Tiseo asked if there were additional comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #11 - Next Meeting Date

Mr. Harrell commented the joint meeting was originally held in November but due to many items not being ready at that time it was switched to February. He added that if February was agreeable, then the joint meeting could be continued in February of next year. Mr. Scott said the exact date would be February 18, 2022. Commissioner Tiseo asked if the venue would be switched. Mr. Harrell explained that normally the venue would be switched between counties each year, but due to COVID-19 related issues with securing a large enough venue, it was again held in Charlotte County. Mr. Harrell continued that it would most likely be held in the same venue, the Charlotte Harbor Event Center, next year as well. Commissioner Tiseo reiterated the meeting would be held on February 18, 2022 in Charlotte County and delegated MPO staff to work out the details. He asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #12 - Staff Comments

Mr. Harrell thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Scott thanked Charlotte County- Punta Gorda MPO for arranging the venue.

Agenda Item #13 - Member Comments

Commissioner Deutsch thanked everyone for attending, invited them to view Charlotte County, and wished safe travels for all. Councilmember Carr thanked Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO for hosting. Commissioner Tiseo reminded those present about continuing Babcock coordination.

Agenda Item #14 - Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #15 - Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here: [Joint MPO February 19, 2021](#)

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard on each of the above items. Written comments filed with the MPO will be considered. Copies of all of the above proposed documents are available by calling the Lee MPO Office at 239-244-2220 or the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Office at 941-883-3535. THIS NOTICE is published pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Law, Florida Statutes and MPO Policy. NO STENOGRAPHIC RECORD BY A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER IS MADE OF THIS MEETING. ACCORDINGLY, ANY PERSON WHO MAY SEEK TO APPEAL ANY DECISIONS INVOLVING THE MATTER NOTICED HEREIN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE AT THIS MEETING UPON WHICH ANY APPEAR IS TO BE BASED. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Lee MPO at 239-244-2220 or the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO at 941-883-3535 at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. THE MPO'S PLANNING PROCESS IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND RELATED STATUTES. ANY PERSON OR BENEFICIARY WHO BELIEVES HE/SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY OR FAMILY STATUS MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE LEE MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR CALANDRA BARRACO AT (239) 244-2220 OR BY WRITING HER AT P. O. Box 150045, CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA 33915 OR THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR WENDY W. SCOTT AT (941) 883-3535 OR BY WRITING HER AT 25550 HARBOR VIEW ROAD, SUITE 4, PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33980