



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY – PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

MINUTES OF THE MPO BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 17, 2018
MURDOCK ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, ROOM #119
PORT CHARLOTTE FL 33948

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Christopher Constance, Charlotte County Commissioner
Commissioner Ken Doherty, Charlotte County Commissioner
Commissioner James Herston, Charlotte County Airport Authority, MPO Vice Chair
Vice Mayor Lynne Matthews, Punta Gorda City Council

ADVISORY

Wayne Gaither, FDOT in for L.K. Nandam, FDOT District One Secretary

ABSENT

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, Charlotte County Commissioner, MPO Chair
Commissioner Joseph Tiseo, Charlotte County Commissioner
L.K. Nandam, FDOT District One Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Gary Harrell, MPO Director
Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Principal Planner
Bekie Leslie, Administrative Services Coordinator
Karen Barnett, Senior Administrative Assistant (Temp)
Janette S. Knowlton, Charlotte County Attorney (MPO Legal Services)

OTHERS PRESENT

D’Juan Harris, FDOT
Michael Tisch, FDOT
John Burrage, CAC Chair
Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair/City of Punta Gorda
Cliff Washburn, Pastor, Deep Creek Community Church

K. Stephen Carter, BPAC Chair
Richard Kolar, Charlotte County Transit
Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering
Venkat, Vattikuti, Charlotte County Public Works
Betsy Calvert – The SUN
Zac Burch, FDOT
Sean Pugh, FDOT

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

MPO Vice Chair, James Herston called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. The roll call was taken with a quorum of members present.

2. Invocation

Cliff Washburn, Deep Creek Community Church, gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Addition and/or Deletions to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on Agenda Items.

6. Election of 2019 Officers

Vice Chair, James Herston turned over the meeting to Janette Knowlton, County Attorney (MPO Legal Services), to conduct the election of 2019 Officers.

Commissioner Doherty nominated Commissioner Constance to serve as the MPO Board Chair. Vice Mayor Matthews seconded the nomination. Commissioner Herston nominated an extension for Commissioner Deutsch. Commissioner Constance was declared MPO Board Chair by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Doherty nominated Commissioner Tiseo to serve as the MPO Board Vice Chair. Commissioner Constance seconded the nomination. There being no additional nominations, Commissioner Joseph Tiseo was declared MPO Board Vice Chair by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Constance then took over chairing the meeting. He stated that he appreciates the confidence that his fellow Commissioners and the Vice Mayor have in him. He noted the

MPO Board is probably one of the best Boards in the County especially when talking about regional and multiple governing bodies.

Vice Mayor Matthews nominated Commissioner Herston to serve as the MPOAC Representative. Commissioner Doherty seconded the nomination. There being no additional nominations, Commissioner Herston was declared MPOAC Representative by a unanimous vote.

Vice Mayor Matthews nominated Commissioner Tiseo to serve as the MPOAC Alternate Representative. Commissioner Doherty seconded the nomination. There being no additional nominations, Commissioner Tiseo was declared MPOAC Alternate Representative by a unanimous vote.

7. Chairs' Reports:

A. MPO Board Chair's Report

Commissioner Constance stated that the MPO Board is really getting on top of some FDOT items, and the perception in the community is that the road projects are getting done on time, and either on budget or under budget. He stated this is a team effort, and he commented, "Hats Off to FDOT for recognizing our needs and doing a great job." He stated the MPO Board will continue to be good stewards for them.

B. Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair Report

John Burrage, Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, opened his remarks by welcoming Commissioner Constance back as MPO Board Chair. He stated he was disappointed at the last Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting, because they did not have a quorum and could not elect new officers. He stated that only five members were present. However, the committee unanimously accepted Agenda Items #11, #12, #13, and #14, and he was very pleased with the results.

He noted that one member had a question regarding Item #15 on the CAC minutes concerning the River Road Project and FDOT taking responsibility for that roadway. The concern is that the southern portion of River Road from Englewood to US 41 is no longer receiving attention.

Additionally, another CAC member brought up water quality issues as related to Mosaic in DeSoto County. There is also a concern for the proposed development of 2000 homes and how it will affect the Kings Highway and Interstate 75 interchange. Mr. Burrage anticipates that these items will be further discussed at the Joint Meeting with the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board on January 28th, 2019.

Commissioner Herston asked for more details regarding the 2000 home development near the DeSoto County line, and Mr. Burrage said he didn't know too much about it as it was not discussed in detail.

Gary Harrell explained that the project is near the Desoto County line; however, no construction has begun. He stated that the details of the plan are available online, and the big concern is the traffic it will create. It was noted that the water quality from Mosaic is not necessarily associated with this development.

Commissioner Constance stated he doesn't have any intention of four laning this section, and he suggested waiting for the developer to initiate a discussion with Charlotte County so traffic needs can be properly addressed. He stated he appreciates the CAC's concern and for keeping this item on the agenda.

Commissioner Doherty noted the project he is referring to is right on the DeSoto County line and adjoins a subdivision in Deep Creek, Section 20. He stated it was his understanding that they have been through re-zoning and are currently going through detailed designs addressing several other issues. Also, anyone with concerns regarding Mosaic should go to the Peace River Manasota Water Authority Website and watch the presentation from the last meeting on water quality and water supply that speaks to those issues.

C. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair's Reports

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda, reported on the discussion from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting on December 7th and recommended that the Board look favorably upon those items upon which the TAC voted.

He noted that the 2019 Election of Officers was held, and he was happy to report that he has been re-elected as TAC Chair. He said he is looking forward to an exciting year ahead as we move into the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update.

Commissioner Constance expressed his appreciation to Mitchell for his dedication and support and congratulated him on his re-election as TAC Chair.

D. Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair's Report

K. Stephen Carter, Chair stated the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was held on December 6th, and it was a very good meeting with around 20 people in attendance.

He stated the major concern discussed was about bicycle safety, noting that fatalities and injuries are too high. He stated that the BPAC would like to see a public awareness campaign put in place to educate bike riders and motorists about bicycle safety rules they need to follow. He noted a suggestion was made to have bumper stickers made and display them on all County vehicles to educate bike riders of the rules of the road and increase overall bicycle safety awareness. He noted this effort was successful in Lee County, and he suggested tying it in with the Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan and possibly putting something on CCTV. He stated that many motorists need reeducation on the rules of how motorists and bicyclists should interact.

He also noted that the Committee acknowledged BPAC member Richard Stark for serving on the Committee for four years.

He then congratulated Commissioner Constance on his new post as MPO Chair.

Commissioner Constance also suggested that FDOT find a brief video to run on CCTV on bicycle safety. He stated one doesn't need a license to ride a bike, but it would be valuable for cyclists and drivers both to know and learn the rules of the road. He also noted that the unintended consequence is that motorcycle riders are going to be safer as a result. He stated he is all for these ideas, and he will bring this up at the BCC Workshop he will be attending on the next day.

Mr. Carter then wished all present a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

8. Local Government Reports:

A. Charlotte County Airport Authority

Commissioner Constance complimented Commissioner Herston, for the consistency in the work the CCAA does and the results they achieve.

Commissioner Herston provided a packet of materials regarding the following Airport Authority activities:

- CCAA Agenda for November 15, 2018
- 2019 Election of Officers-Pam Seay, Chair; Commissioner James Herston, Vice Chair
- Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for Seven Months Ending August 31, 2018 and September 30, 2018
- Statement of Net Position (Balance Sheet) as of September 30, 2018
- CCAA Total Passengers 2012 through 2018
- Fuel Sales Report 2017 vs 2018
- Operations Report by Tower/Allegiant Airlines Cities Served
- Statement of Revenue and Expenses
- Marketing and Communications Report as of November 2018

Commissioner Doherty complimented Commissioner Herston on an excellent report. He stated that he has been associated with the airport since its beginning and is very proud of his efforts. Commissioner Constance also thanked Commissioner Herston for his report.

B. City of Punta Gorda

Vice Mayor Matthews explained that Punta Gorda recently experienced a total reorganization on the City Council the day after the election. She stated that they now have a new Council Member for District 2, Debbie Carey; Nancy Prafke was elected Mayor; and Lynne Matthews was elected Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Matthews then reported on the following:

- City approved the contract for underground water main improvements on Sullivan Street at Olympia Avenue. The project is projected to take up to 60 days and should

start right after the first of the year. This includes any possible repaving and rebricking that may be needed.

- Contract bids and all approvals were received for the Jones Loop Rd. force main, and the project is moving forward.
- The City is still working with FDOT regarding I-75 directional signage for both the Military Heritage Museum and the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Vice Mayor Matthews was assigned to work on the Military Heritage Museum Board and will be working very closely with this project. The Military Museum will also be tracking the number of visitors annually.
- Citywide Master Plan contract has been approved with the Consulting Firm of Dover Kole & Partners. The consultant has started historical data review and work on the project. The City is also considering a separate contract with the consultant for the conceptual design idea for the two buildings in the Gilchrist Park Activity Center. There is a need to work on options for upkeep of the Bayfront Center Building and the Punta Gorda Boat Club Building. The contract for that portion will be folded into the Citizens Master Plan. The City is also working with the 1st United Methodist Church to hold the Public Charrette Process at that facility.
- Team Punta Gorda will be hosting a one-day summit titled “Punta Gorda – Journey to the Future” on January 7th with speakers regarding development, redevelopment, and future expansion. The speakers will include Allegiant, Dover Kole Partners, a group of historians, the CEO of Babcock Ranch and several others. Over 600 people are registered, and there will be a maximum of 700 attendees. Register online at www.teampuntagorda.org.
- Master Plan consultants Dover Kohl and Partners will review land development regulations for US 41 and US 17 to enhance smart development opportunities.

Commissioner Doherty suggested that the scope of the Master Plan look at things that are occurring in the County outside of the City that may create additional opportunities for the City. Vice Mayor Matthews agreed. It will be a comprehensive study looking at all options.

C. Charlotte County

Commissioner Doherty provided a Roadway Update handout covering the following items:

- **Burnt Store Road Phase 2 (Notre Dame to North of Zemel Road)**
Design plans are 100% complete (with SWFWD and Army Corps permits). Construction funds are in the current budget. Construction bidding is slated to begin upon conclusion of right-of-way acquisition (which is currently in progress).
- **Olean Blvd (US 41 to Easy Street)**
County staff is currently reviewing the 90% drawings. Anticipated final design completion is early 2019. Anticipated construction starts in Summer 2019.

- **Harbor Blvd (US 41 to Olean Blvd)**
Currently under construction and on schedule. Anticipated completion is March 2019.
- **Piper Road (Henry Street to US 17)**
The contract completion date is 3/12/19. Asphalt placement and US 17 intersection improvements are ongoing. Water Main installation is complete, and testing has begun. Henry St. intersection improvements are scheduled to begin. The contractor is performing on schedule.

Commissioner Doherty reported that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place last Thursday for the Midway Phase II Widening Project. He stated this almost did not happen from the standpoint of water management rules and regulations, but the US 41 Micro-Tunnel Project lowered the flood stage to make this project achievable. He stated it was a major engineering effort and complimented the Engineer's Office for getting this done.

Vice Mayor Matthews inquired as to whether Piper Road will be done prior to March. Zenkat Vettikuti, Charlotte County Public Works, stated that Piper Road Project is on track. Contract completion is on schedule and may be completed by January, depending on inspections. Commissioner Constance stated the County is hoping for completion at least a month or two early, however, there are some outstanding issues that must be addressed first.

Commissioner Herston asked if reuse pipe is being added while Harbor Blvd. from US 41 to Edgewater is under construction. Zenkat Vettikuti stated reuse pipe is part of the project.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Wayne Gaither, FDOT, introduced Mike Tisch who will be D'Juan Harris' replacement as FDOT Community Liaison for Charlotte County and Shawn Pugh, the new FDOT Project Manager Engineer Supervisor. He gave the Board a brief review of each of their backgrounds and experience. Commissioner Constance stated he likes to see experienced people coming into these positions.

Mike Tisch then discussed the following items:

A. I-75 Possible New Interchange North of Kings Highway.

FDOT is undertaking a Masterplan Analysis and Interchange Justification Report for 3 interchanges within District One in Sarasota, Lee & Collier Counties.

B. U.S. 17 at Nesbit Street Intersection Re-design

No further changes are planned for this intersection. Commissioner Constance thanked them for the engineering and suggested this item be removed from the project list. It was mutually agreed that this action will be taken.

C. I-75 Purple Heart County Signage

Gary Harrell stated that Commissioner Deutsch had suggested at the last meeting the creation of a map of Florida's designated Purple Heart Highways. He noted no MPO Action is

required for this item, as designation of Florida Highways is a legislative action. He stated, however, it could be put on the agenda for the upcoming Joint Meetings for discussion with neighboring MPO's.

A. US 41/Carmalita Street

FDOT Staff determined full PD&E Phase for this project was not needed. The project will be deleted from the FDOT Work Program and combined with a US 41 Resurfacing Project. D’Juan Harris stated that the resurfacing project effectively advances the US 41 at Carmalita Street Project which is a plus for both parties.

B. Harbor View Road Combined Widening Study Alternative

Meetings have been conducted with Charlotte County Staff to have early discussion on possible funding sources for this project. There is approximately \$4 million dollars programmed for design in FY 2020 and approximately \$6.9 million dollars for Right of Way in 2023/2024. The construction costs are currently estimated at \$34 million dollars. Additional meetings are scheduled with Charlotte County Staff to discuss options.

C. State Road 31 Roundabouts

An interim improvement of a signalized intersection is underway, and design for a roundabout was advanced to 2020 for \$2 million dollars.

D. CR 74 Widening

Staff is engaging with County Staff for early stages regarding funding for this project.

Commissioner Constance commended FDOT for their forward-looking engineering and noted that the corroboration of citizens, FDOT and the Governor created this model, and it is very much appreciated.

D’Juan Harris reported the Interim FDOT Secretary is Eric Fenniman.

Commissioner Constance noted that US 17 from US 41 to Cooper Street has not been resurfaced for some time and needs to be reviewed for maintenance. D’Juan Harris stated FDOT is working with the City of Punta Gorda regarding this section for improvements. He estimates the earliest it would be improved is FY 2024.

D’Juan Harris wished all Happy Holidays.

10. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes: October 29, 2018 MPO Board Meeting
- B. Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) & Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Reappointments
- C. Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Appointment

Commissioner Doherty made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, and Commissioner Herston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. FY 2019 - FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Gary Harrell explained the MPO closeout of the FY 2017 and FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) had \$46,931 remaining in that fiscal year. The MPO needs to move this amount into the current FY 2019 – FY 2020 UPWP through an amendment. MPO staff recommends adding \$20,000 into FY 2020 Task 1 – Administration; and \$26,931 into FY 2019 Task 4 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The MPO is required to amend the FY 2019 and FY 2020 UPWP updating figures to reflect these funds.

Commissioner Doherty made a motion to amend the FY 2019 and FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/FDOT Amendment to the Metropolitan Planning Organization adding a total of \$46,931 into FY 2019 and FY 2020. The motion for transmittal of the amendment to FDOT, allows staff to make minor changes and adjustments based upon input received, and authorizes the Chair to sign Resolution # 2018-06. Vice Mayor Matthews seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Florida Department of Transportation(FDOT) District One Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2019/2020-FY2023/2024, For Charlotte County

Gary Harrell stated the MPO Board and its Committees annually review FDOT’s Draft Tentative Work Program, which includes the new fifth year (FY 2023/2024) of programming based upon FDOT and MPO priorities. On May 7, 2018, the MPO Board adopted its project priorities list which includes the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) and Joint Regional Trails (RTAP) project priority list and submitted the lists to FDOT for inclusion in the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program to the extent possible. The Draft Tentative Work Program forms the basis for the MPO’s next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be adopted and submitted to FDOT by July 15, 2019. For federal funding to flow to the state and local governments, the TIP and FDOT’s Work Program must be consistent.

The Draft Tentative Work Program was released on November 14, 2018. FDOT held an e-public meeting the week of December 3, 2018 for the FY 2019/2020 - FY 2023/2024 FDOT Draft Tentative Program. Wayne Gaither, FDOT, introduced a video presentation by L.K. Nandam, FDOT District One Secretary, detailing the FY 2020 – FY 2024 FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program. After completion of the video presentation, Commissioner Constance thanked FDOT for the presentation and opened the floor for comments. He suggested linking this to the MPO website so that we can have a placeholder every year and give better information to the public. Gary Harrell stated he will put it on the MPO Website.

Commissioner Constance asked if the resurfacing project (441552-1) US 17 from Cooper St. to Bermont Road (CR74) could be Amended as US 17 from US 41 to Bermont Road. D’Juan Harris explained that it will have to be a separate project because the current limits are due to funding constraints. Wayne Gaither said it could be a separate project but could be combined with other projects. D’Juan Harris stated it could be a “Goes-With” Project that might marry programs together and put them into the budget as one project. Commissioner Constance

said he would like to see it all programmed as US 41 to Bermont Road. D’Juan Harris stated he will be looking at ways of finding possible funding.

13. 2019 Project Priorities - Discussion

Gary Harrell stated the MPO is required to annually develop a list of project priorities as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process and to submit the list to FDOT. FDOT has asked that the project information packages be submitted by February 1, 2019. The deadline to submit the preliminary list of priority projects is March 15, 2019 to begin the review process. The MPO receives project candidates from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County which include Highway projects, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, and Congestion Management/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) Box.

Commissioner Herston asked about Project Priority #7 SR 776 from Pine Street to Spinnaker Blvd. Gary Harrell noted the PD&E for this project was performed right in the middle of the recession, and the traffic didn’t support it. The result of the PD&E was for a no build at the time. He stated it will be looked at for another improvement in the future. FDOT and the County are working together to improve the SR 776 access points so perhaps the project could be moved further out.

Discussion then took place regarding deceleration lanes on Veterans Blvd. between US 41 and Kings Highway. Venkat Vattikuti stated that a safety project for Veterans Blvd. is underway in the current Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be forthcoming. He noted the design may be completed sometime in 2019.

14. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Safety Performance Measures Targets

Gary Harrell reminded the Board that last year, so that Federal Highway (FHWA) requirements were achieved, the MPO Board adopted Safety Performance Measure Targets. These are used for tracking progress towards the Statewide MPO targets.

FHWA has established five national Safety Measures which all State Departments of Transportation and MPOs must address. Unlike other performance measures applicable only to the National Highway System (NHS), the Safety Performance Measures apply to all public roads. The Safety Performance Measures are:

1. Number of Fatalities
2. Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Number of Serious Injuries
4. Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

The MPO has until December 18, 2018, to accept the FDOT targets, or develop their own targets. MPO Staff recommends the MPO Board to readopt the Safety Performance Measures provided last year. FHWA is required to give us data on how well we have done in previous years, however, that data is not ready to be released at this time. He stated he will provide this data as soon as he receives it.

Commissioner Constance asked Gary Harrell to prepare a five-year Excel spreadsheet that will give the Board a snapshot of where we have been and where we are going with this when he has received this data from FHWA.

Commissioner Herston asked about MPOAC's recommendation. Gary Harrell said MPOAC does not want to tell other MPOs what to do, but the majority of MPOs have adopted FDOT Performance Measures.

Commissioner Doherty made a motion to adopt FDOT's Safety Targets for all five national Safety Measures. Commissioner Herston seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

15. MPO Director's Annual Evaluation Form

Commissioner Constance explained that at the October 29, 2018 MPO Board meeting, a proposal was made to use the County's five scale evaluation form but to amend Category #7 to read Accomplishments & Goals. The consensus of the Board was to bring a draft revised evaluation form based on the County's five scale evaluation to this meeting in line with BCC Goals. Working with the MPO Attorney, the draft revised evaluation form is attached. He stated he appreciates the hard work of Bekie Leslie, Nina Stamoulis and Janette Knowlton to revise this form.

Commissioner Doherty made a motion to adopt the revised MPO Director's Annual Evaluation Form. Commissioner Herston seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Draft 2019 MPO Legislative Position Statement

Gary Harrell explained that to ensure submittal prior to the commencement of the 2019 Florida Legislative Session, this item is being brought to the MPO now. When adopted by the Board, this position statement will be used to set the MPO's legislative platform for advocacy in the 2019 Florida Legislative Session. The Board's Legislative Position Statement will be provided, at a minimum, to the area's Legislative Delegation to assist them in accurately identifying what the MPO's position is on issues that affect transportation planning. The legislative delegation may use this information when considering legislation affecting the MPO. The MPO Legislative Position Statement focuses on those issues most relevant to the MPO.

No State or Federal funds were used in the preparation of this legislative position statement.

Commissioner Constance asked if this Position Statement has been reviewed by Emily Lewis, County Legislature Manager, and Gary Harrell responded “yes”. He then encouraged continuing the effort of finding synergy to work together on issues, so when our representatives go to Washington, they can work together to help each other achieve their common goals.

Commissioner Constance made a motion to approve the Draft 2019 MPO Legislative Position Statement authorizing its distribution to the area’s Legislative Delegation and others. Commissioner Doherty seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

18. Staff Comments

Gary Harrell stated he has already provided a staff report of activities since the last MPO Board Meeting for the Board to review. He then reviewed the draft agenda items for the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Joint Meeting in January and asked that additional agenda items be sent to him. He stated there will also be a Transportation Forum held by FDOT District One directly after the Joint Meeting. The speakers discussing various topics related to transportation will be as follows:

- District 1 & Transportation: L.K. Nandam, FDOT District 1
- Disruption & Transformation: Alice Ancona, Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Delivering the Goods: Dave Sanford, Port Manatee
- Ready or Not, Here They Come: Ben Walker, HNTB
- Vertical Traffic: Aircraft, Spacecraft/Drones, Oh My: Mark Bontrager, Space Florida
- Blueprint for Florida’s Future: Alice Ancona, Florida Chamber of Commerce

Gary Harrell stated that the 2045 LRTP needs to be adopted by October 2020, and we are looking to issue a task assignment to our general planning consultants by the end of this week and have their input by late January. He stated he hopes to have a consultant chosen soon and plans to notify the Board at the next MPO Meeting.

Commissioner Constance noted that for LRTP updates there are municipalities that recycle plans they currently have. He asked if this is being done. Gary Harrell responded that the LRTP Update is a federal requirement and that funding is set aside from the Federal dollars. He is hoping to save money this year because some of the other planning studies are already in place. He noted Lakshmi Gurram, Mitchell Austin, along with several others will be working very hard to ensure that we get a good product at a lesser price.

Gary Harrell stated the January 28th Joint Meeting with Sarasota/Manatee MPO will begin at 10:00 am instead of 9:30 am as originally scheduled and will take place at the Venice Community Center for the Boards and the Public.

19. Member Comments

Commissioner Doherty stated it was a pleasure being here today substituting for Commissioner Tiseo, and he wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Vice Mayor Matthews wished everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Herston suggested adding the MPOAC Report as a line item on the Local Government Report or wherever is it appropriate on the MPO Board Meeting Agenda. Gary Harrell assured the Board he will make this addition for next meeting.

Commissioner Herston wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and he gave an update on Commissioner Deutsch's condition after his surgery. He stated that Commissioner Deutsch sent his extended Holiday Wishes to the MPO Board. Commissioner Herston also stated that the Airport Staff has a great relationship with the FDOT Staff, and he looks forward to working with them in the future.

Commissioner Herston asked if FDOT could look at eliminating the no right turn on red at the US 41 at Edgewater and Harbor View Intersection. A discussion took place, and Shawn Pugh from FDOT gave a history of why this intersection is like this, he noted it has to do with the stop bar being so far back. Venkat Vattukiti stated he will ask FDOT to investigate the light changes at that intersection. He noted it is set back and creates a visibility issue. He said he will ask the Traffic Office to look at the situation and seek answers prior to the Joint Meeting. Meanwhile, he has been working with FDOT to address this issue and look at other options.

Commissioner Constance asked FDOT and the County to investigate making a left turn on a flashing yellow light at various intersections on US 41.

Commissioner Constance made closing remarks and thanked the MPO Board for having confidence in him as MPO Chair. He then complimented the Airport Staff for all its good work.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 P.M. The next scheduled meeting of the MPO Board will be held on Monday, March 25, 2019.