

Community Oversight & Advisory Team (COAT) MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting 4- Thursday, February 11th at 6:00 pm

Attendees:

COAT Members

Gail Battle	Todd Drosky	Rita Pickar
John Biggie	Dan Glickman	Tom Rabil
Lotus Boss	Betty Masi	Brian Rosen
Jennifer Bramley	Joan Maurice	Eric Torella
Gail Bulfin	Dave Mirantz	Matt Wood

Public Attendees

Commissioner Mark Bogen
Vice Mayor Bill Ganz
Pat Bido-Padra
Dan Bogner
Marj Campbell
Ruth Carey
Donna Copobianco
Nicole Giordano
Ed Hack
Burgess Hanson
Arlene Johnson
Maria Marsillo
Charles Parness
Susan Robbins
Andrew Velasquez
Elizabeth Wargo
Barry Warhoftig
Steve Williams

Staff

Gregory Stuart-Broward MPO
Charlene Burke-Broward MPO
Paul Calvaresi-Broward MPO
James Cromar-Broward MPO
Anthea Thomas-Broward MPO
Sheri Coven-Marlin Engineering
Jennifer Fierman-Marlin Engineering
Nancy Ziegler-Marlin Engineering
Scott Peterson-Florida Department of Transportation
Steve Braun- Florida Department of Transportation
Anson Sonnett-Florida Department of Transportation

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Commenced at 6:10pm

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gregory Stuart introduced the elected officials present (Broward County Commissioner Mark Bogen and Vice Mayor Bill Ganz from the City of Deerfield Beach).

Commissioner Bogen introduced himself. This was his first day as an MPO Board member. He asked the committee to care about their neighbors, even though they may not live in Deerfield. He reminded the COAT that they are here to build consensus and they don't need to feel like they have to do something on SW 10th Street. He asked that the committee to please consider the residents of Deerfield.

Vice Mayor Ganz introduced himself. He mentioned that there are many questions that need to be answered about residential, traffic, and economic concerns. He explained that there is frustration because there are a lot of questions that won't be able to be answered until a PD&E study occurs, but is encouraged that the MPO and FDOT agree that there are some questions that can and will be answered now. Vice Mayor Ganz mentioned some specific areas of concern including traffic estimates, connectivity, and accessibility to Military Trail and Powerline Road. He said he hopes the process will generate more questions and answers to make a good recommendation.

Greg asked the COAT to introduce themselves and they did.

ELECTION OF A COAT CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Greg moved on to the election of a chair and vice-chair for the COAT and asked the COAT to consider who they want to chair and vice-chair the committee.

One COAT member expressed that they don't think there's a need for chair and vice-chair and that electing officers would mean that one person has greater weight than another.

A COAT member asked what the responsibilities of the officers would be and Greg said that running the COAT meetings would be the main responsibility.

A COAT member nominated John Biggie because he lives in Deerfield, is a business person, an engineer, and felt that his comments strike middle ground.

A COAT member expressed that they were not prepared to make a decision about if they need a chair and who it should be.

Greg explained that these meetings need structure.

A COAT member expressed that if there will be additional meetings, then it may make more sense to have a chair and vice-chair.

Greg mentioned that it was expressed that the COAT's desire was to have more meetings and if there are to be more meetings there needs to be structure.

A COAT member discussed how MPO staff is reluctant to curtail some of the discussion which can be repetitive because they are MPO staff and are there to facilitate the process. A COAT chairman could bring order to the meeting so that the discussion is meaningful. They went on to discuss their own frustration with going over materials repeatedly and said that any committee needs a chair.

There was discussion about having confidence in Greg and Sheri Coven to run the meetings, and a COAT member asked why it is that they need a chair now.

Greg said that we need a chair to better facilitate the meetings. It can help meetings go faster, and help FDOT have a direct line of communication with the COAT.

Someone seconded the nomination of John Biggie as chair

A COAT member nominated Todd Drosky as chair

A COAT member said that they first need to decide if they should have a vote tonight.

Greg and Sheri asked who would like to vote for a chair that night and by a show of hands the COAT elected not to have a chair election tonight.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sheri asked if there were additions to the agenda. There were none.

A COAT member asked if there will be discussion about the possibility of future COAT meetings. Sheri said that it is on the agenda for discussion later.

CONSENSUS ON MEETING 3 SUMMARY

Sheri asked if the COAT had reviewed the meeting 3 summary and if the COAT approved the contents. By a show of hands, the COAT said yes.

PARKING LOT ITEMS

Sheri went through parking lot items and said they will be answered as we go through the questions that came up from the City of Deerfield Beach.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE COAT

Sheri went through expectations of the COAT and some members asked questions about the meaning of the expectations and if the COAT was adhering to those responsibilities in terms of developing a vision and strategies for addressing the issues on SW 10th Street. A COAT member mentioned that the Vision items are things that no one could disagree with and are too general to develop into concepts.

OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

Paul Calvaresi reviewed the format of the January 30th open house. He mentioned that many people enjoyed having one-on-one conversations with the staff members. He said that if there is another public meeting there can be discussion with the COAT on the preferred format.

Paul reviewed the public feedback on the vision poster and the toolbox concepts from the open house.

A COAT member asked what the MPO response to the feedback is and Paul said that it falls in line with what has been heard from the COAT. One member expressed surprise that there wasn't more feedback about walkability.

The COAT discussed how the public was disappointed because there was the expectation of a formal presentation and public comment period. They discussed which COAT members attended the meeting, and some of the issues with the meeting, such as the noise level in the room. COAT members expressed that they felt the meeting was confusing and that there was no designated place for the COAT to interact with people.

Sheri reviewed the summary of the open house.

A COAT member asked if the comment cards will receive responses. Jennifer Fierman came up to explain that all comment cards are being read and responded to.

CONSENSUS ON VISION

Sheri reviewed the SW 10th Street Vision and discussed that at some point the vision will be of value. The COAT did not make any changes to the Vision items.

COAT DATA REQUESTS

Sheri moved on to COAT data requests, and Paul asked if everything was captured and if the COAT wants to add anything.

Greg invited the engineer (hired by the City of Deerfield Beach) to come speak.

Steve Williams of Keith and Associates introduced himself and brought up additional concerns including near and long term solutions, traffic signal management, current planned improvements for the Florida's Turnpike and I-95, tabletop parks, and timeframes for making a recommendation.

A COAT member reiterated the interest in table top parks and the ability to create amenities.

Paul explained that near term is 5 years, long range is 25 years. A COAT member said that they think it's worth it to look at medium-term solutions. The desire to try traffic signalization, as well as widening the four lane section of SW 10th Street first was reiterated by a COAT member.

Sheri mentioned that there has been outreach to Broward County to get information about what is happening along SW 10th Street for traffic signalization.

Greg explained that there needs to be a long term plan. The MPO and Broward County need to know what the long term vision is going to be and then incremental

improvements can be identified. However, incremental improvements are not going to solve the long term problem.

Chris Ryan shared with the COAT that FDOT can come and provide an update on studies at I-95 and at the Turnpike.

A COAT member mentioned that previous concepts and ideas suggested by the COAT need to be documented to the committee can move forward and it seems as though no progress has been made. They expressed the thought that this opportunity for input will come and go and if the COAT can't come to consensus, they will have no input at all.

A COAT member said that their biggest concern is the long term economic impact on the City of Deerfield Beach. Someone asked if there are there any studies on the economic impact of major projects like this. Sheri said that that has been discussed by staff.

The COAT then discussed the future meeting where FDOT can explain ongoing studies at the I-95 and Turnpike interchanges. A COAT member suggested that Broward County Traffic Engineering also presents and that the meeting allows for Q&A.

Sheri mentioned that the team can't commit to being able to answer every question that is asked.

A COAT member discussed how this committee was formed in order to make a recommendation to the MPO board, which still needs to vote on the solution for SW 10th Street. Since the board is comprised of members of some of the larger cities in Broward, the COAT needs to work with Deerfield Beach to find the most palatable improvements that will address as many of the concerns.

NEXT STEPS

Sheri asked if there was interest in additional COAT meetings. There was discussion about what the timeframe would be. Sheri mentioned that initially the MPO wanted to vote on this in March or April of 2016, but due to the lack of consensus the board is willing to wait.

The COAT expressed consensus on wanting to have future meetings. The team agreed to provide the COAT with information in between meetings. COAT members expressed expectations for those meetings as well as the desire for another public workshop.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Arlene Johnson discussed traffic concerns, concerns about impacts to homes during construction, access to Waterways and the consideration of looking at other streets to improve.

Charles Parness expressed that this process is unfairly tying the hands of the COAT.

Donna Capobianco expressed thanks the MPO for involving the communities and thanks the COAT. She would like to see a meeting at Century Village.

Susan Robbins asked if there have been studies to determine the need for a major project along SW 10th Street and what coordination has occurred for environmental concerns.

Vice Mayor Bill Ganz said that Deerfield Beach has come a long way in terms of conversations about SW 10th Street and doesn't agree with the idea that nothing should be done. He expressed the need to be able to talk about the good and the bad. He wants to know that the recommended project will be appropriate for the need, and that it won't hinder the community in the future. He thanked the COAT and said that he feels that progress is being made.

COAT ROUNDTABLE

Each COAT member gave their final thoughts on the meeting. Many expressed looking forward to getting more information at the future meetings and a willingness to work together.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.