

Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee was called to order at 1:05PM on Friday, January 17, 2020 by Chair, Commissioner David Rice, in the Marathon BOCC Chambers at 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL.

Present

Appointed Committee Members:

David Rice, Chair
Deb Gillis, City of the Village of Islamorada
Bruce Halle, City of Layton
Kim Lisle, City of Key Colony Beach
Mary Lou Hoover, City of Key West
Doug Lewis, City of Marathon

Non-Committee Members:

Alison Higgins, KW Sustainability Coordinator
Rita Irwin, TDC Board Chair
Christina Neel, Planner – Village of Islamorada
Christina Miskis, Regional Planner, SFRPC
Janene Sclafani, Transportation Planner – MC
Cheryl Cioffari, Assistant Director of Planning – MC
Christine Hurley, Director of Growth Management – MC
Jeremy Mullings, Sr. Planner/Project Director – So FL Commuter Services (SFCS)
Justina Gfesser, First/Last Mile Planner – SFCS
Chris Pennant, Presenter, So FL Rural Vanpool Program (Enterprise)
Rod Delostrinos, KW Director of Transportation

Roll call was agreed to be skipped.

Approve Agenda: Agenda was amended to add a discussion item to consider adding an “open discussion” item on future agendas any issues of interest, as opposed to a “report” section for each city. Agenda was approved.

Minutes of December 6, 2019 were approved.

Meeting Summary:

A. Building a Plan for Success with Monroe County:

Justina Gffesser, SFCS introduced Chris Pennant, Presenter of the Enterprise South Florida Rural Vanpool Program.

Highlights:

- South Florida Vanpool Program extends from West Palm Beach to Key West; Monroe County is now eligible through their new “Rural” extension of the program for non-metropolitan areas.
- Partner with South Florida Commuter Services, an extension of Enterprise Company.
- Vanpool program is 4 or more riders in a designated area, park their cars in a central location, and ride in the Vanpool vehicle to their places of employment, drive back again, get in their cars and continue home. Riders can be picked up along the route as well. Must be 15+ miles from place of employment. They have vans; SUV’s available for multi-passenger transportation. (Most people prefer to drive the SUV’s.)
- Can build a vanpool with multiple smaller employers in a given location.
- Ridership on vehicle is reported via phone app.
- Employees have a reliable means of transportation, with a new vehicle.
- Expected to gain 80% savings off their personal commuter costs
- Monroe County now for FDOT Rural subsidy of 50% off the rate for vehicle and 50% off fuel costs with no cap on either.
- Turnkey program, quarterly reports provided, billed monthly. Would take coordination between multiple businesses.
- Of interest for hotel/resorts, all hospitality, several resorts run their own small bus to Homestead to pick up employees. Currently working with Ocean Reef Resort on a vanpool arrangement.
- Best to contact the Chamber of Commerce offices in the Keys to make presentations, particularly Key Largo and Islamorada chambers to get word out to businesses.

Action Item: Chair Rice requested that Christine Hurley assign staff to gather more information on the program.

B. Statement of Purpose:

Chair Rice said he was in support of the Statement of Purpose with the elimination of the last sentence he viewed as unnecessary. Motion to approve made by Bruce Halle, 2nd by Deb Gillis. Motion passed.

C. Village of Islamorada Update on Response to Norman’s Transportation Ideas, Issues, and Options:

Deb Gillis reported on updates to this item.

Freebie:

Early to mid February they are expecting to have two new improved 45-mph Freebie electric vehicles in service. These vehicles will cover all the Village islands and safely cross bridges. Good ridership is anticipated. Keeping one smaller vehicle just for the Upper Matecumbe area from the Postcard up to the bridge, ridership has been very good.

Norman’s Transportation Ideas:

Multiple reasons using the old state road segment for a northbound lane will not work, biggest one, the current bridges are not wide enough to allow this merge situation causing

bottleneck issues. Village is inquiring with other one road in, one out locations, like Sanibel, Outerbanks, etc. for ideas they are having success with.

The County LOS:

Christine Hurley stated the County LOS study (Arterial Travel Time Delay Study, aka ATTDS) is required by the Comp Plan to be done every two years. The study is conducted in the Spring (after winter tourism traffic eases). The BOCC must review and adopt it, then sent on to FDOT. The County has to use the study and LOS ratings for permitting, (SFH exempt), for commercial, resort permitting, multi-family housing projects. If overall LOS is exceeded, the County shall not permit new development unless the proposed development mitigates the trips it generates.

The current draft study results indicate an overall LOS D – Extra traffic due to commuting employees displaced by Hurricane Irma living out of county and increased number of commercial contractor vehicles of all types from the mainland to repair thousands of damaged homes.

In 1992, the LOS Task Force was created to develop a methodology for measuring LOS in the Keys and was reconvened again in 1997. It was a multi-agency team, which included Monroe County, FDOT, and DEO. It is recommended the LOS Task Force reconvene to update the methodology using current traffic standards.

We will be asking the BOCC if they want to reform the LOS Task Force. This will require another multi-agency team.

ACOM is contracted to do a county-wide comprehensive transportation master plan, this will be on the February agenda for BOCC approval.

Chair Rice commented that we need FDOT to review LOS for needed traffic flow improvements they can do.

Janene Sclafani stated that we currently have \$300 – 500,000 from FDOT to fund the transportation master plan and the County transportation department. This will take approximately 18 months to complete, the focus is on US1. This will advise us of specific sites for turn lanes, flow merge and decel lanes, intersection changes, etc. Most, if not all involve US1 and FDOT, what they are willing to do.

This committee will provide a unified voice to FDOT of Monroe County needs for an improved LOS for US1.

D. Miami-Dade Transit questions:

Alison Higgins stated that Key West Transportation is trying to get data from Miami Dade. The contracted buses they use for the Monroe Express do not have counters, but they do have the “fare system”, will at least get you the ridership “hot spots.” Broadbrush, up to a 100 sites. This will help with proposed new bus shelters sites. Monroe County has an existing contract with Anderson Outdoor Advertising to put in shelters at their cost, (they place paid advertising on them), and coordination is done by Engineering with FDOT for permitting of shelter, and the bus service.

Judy Clarke, Chief Engineer, Monroe County Engineering handles that process. Chair Rice stated we still do not know how to tell Judy where to put new bus stops. Need data.

Kim Lisle would like a bus shelter added at US1 and the Key Colony Beach causeway for Key Colony Beach.

E. Discussion of future agendas:

Chair Rice suggested adding “open discussion” item at the end of the meeting for anyone who had something to add that was not already on the agenda. Doug Lewis asked to be sure an email notice be sent a week or two before the meeting requesting new agenda items. Janene said we already send out a notice about a week ahead for filing items with her.

Kim Lisle suggested looking at using the water as transportation. Many areas with water use water taxis and small ferries (island hoppers). Kim will do some research on this issue to report to the committee.

NYC – Manhattan is an island, they have a ferry 10 times a day from Lower Manhattan to Brooklyn.

Naples has water taxis through their large canal systems.

Marathon had a thriving water taxi in the harbor at one time.

Ft. Lauderdale water taxi, (Janene), for \$20.00 you could ride that all day.

Key West to Ft. Myers ferry goes out to Ft. Myers and comes back the same day, one ferry.

Rita Irwin said this would not be allowable use of TDC funds at this time. We can work on it, would take a legislative change for Monroe County.

F. Isla Bella Resort bus turnaround design:

Doug Lewis reported that they had just received from the Singh Co. a site plan for the bus turnaround, and it was a start. He said they will have to arrange with Miami-Dade to run their bus to Isla Bella, to make the turnaround and see if it works for their bus. Doug is going to arrange this with Miami-Dade Transportation. They can finish their turnaround through the Ships Store parking lot if they have to. He noted that the Isla Bella is a 200-unit resort with not enough parking.

Rod Delostrinos reported that the Lower Keys Shuttle bus has made the turnaround and it is adequate for their vehicles.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00PM

FKTCC County website link:

<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/1163/Florida-Keys-Transportation-Coordination>