

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Board of County Commission Chambers
Collier County Government Center
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor
Naples, FL 34112
December 11, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

****HYBRID REMOTE – IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kowal called the meeting to order at approximately 9 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Hansen called roll and confirmed a quorum was present in the room.

Members Present (in BCC Chambers)

Commissioner Dan Kowal, *Chair*
Council Member Tony Pernas, *Vice-Chair*
Commissioner Burt L. Saunders
Commissioner Rick LoCastro
Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr.,
Council Member Linda Penniman
Council Member Berne Barton
Council Member Bonita Schwan

Members Absent

Commissioner Chris Hall

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Sean Kingston, Planner III
Dusty Hansen, Planner II
Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

FDOT

Jamie Driggers, District 1 Secretary (*arrived during item 7*)
Wayne Gaither, Director, District 1 Southwest Area Office (*arrived during item 7*)
Marcellus Evans, District 1 Community Liaison (*arrived during item 7*)

Others Present

Carmen Monroy, Collier MPO Executive Director Candidate
Vinod Sandanasamy, Collier MPO Executive Director Candidate
Nicholas Danu, Collier MPO Executive Director Candidate
Amy Lyberg, Collier County Human Resources Director
Alberto Rodriguez, Collier County Human Resources Manager
Trinity Scott, Collier County Transportation Management Services Department Head
Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney
Lorraine Lantz, Planning Manager, Collier County Transportation Planning
Sonal Dodia, Jacobs Engineering
Bill Gramer, Jacobs Engineering
Michelle Sproviero, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Julianne Thomas, Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Others Present (Via Zoom)

Michelle Avola Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Kowal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CONSENT ITEMS

4.A. Approval of November 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the agenda and previous minutes, and Vice-Chair Pernas seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Avola Brown wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and announced that the Hands-free cell phone use bill is in drafting. There had been headway made with the representatives who refused to support the bill last agenda. More would be known in a few weeks.

6. AGENCY UPDATES

6.A. FDOT

Mr. Gaither reported that FDOT had conducted its Draft Tentative Work Program public hearing from October 20-24, 2025, with a public meeting held on October 24th. He also mentioned that FDOT had received the Collier MPO's letter and was preparing a response based on the comments from the previous meeting. In addition to drafting a formal reply, staff were actively working on several of the items raised in the letter. He stated that FDOT had already met with Collier County staff regarding the SR 29 Loop and expected additional discussions as they worked toward a solution acceptable to all parties. There was

ongoing coordination with Collier County staff on I-75 improvements at Pine Ridge Road, as well as upcoming discussions related to Immokalee.

6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. McLaughlin said the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) survey for the Collier and Lee MPO consolidation study was open for one more day.

7. CHAIR REPORTS

7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.C. BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE (BPAC)

7.C.1. Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair Report

Ms. Sproviero said that Gene McPherson of Cape Coral attended the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting to present an off-road trail he mapped from Florida City to Fort Myers. While BPAC members were familiar with portions of the route, Mr. McPherson had connected the full corridor. The BPAC Chair Report references the City of Naples, although the trail segment is in Lee County, so it wasn't included in the report. Mr. McPherson had been referred to the BPAC by The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) following the Florida Bicycle Meeting in November 2025. As BPAC is not a regulatory body for authorizing public access, committee members advised Mr. McPherson to work directly with the appropriate land management agencies, as many of the roads involved are gated, similar to several off-road and gravel corridors in Collier County.

Ms. Sproviero also reported that the committee is very supportive of the new bicycle and pedestrian safety ordinance related to e-bikes adopted by the Collier County Board of Commissioners (BCC). She said that at the November meeting, BPAC voted to recommend expanding the ordinance to include Class 2 e-bikes, commonly known as throttle bikes, due to safety concerns. These bikes do not require pedal assist, are frequently encountered by bicyclists, and can be easily modified through an app to exceed the 20-mph limit, sometimes reaching speeds of up to 50 mph.

Chair Kowal said that as the author of the ordinance, Class 2 e-bikes were considered during the original drafting, but that the elderly community in Collier County strongly supports their use. The BCC chose not to place additional restrictions on Class 2 e-bikes for that reason. He added that Collier County’s approach remains consistent with state regulations.

Commissioner LoCastro said the BCC understood the ordinance was not fully comprehensive when it was adopted, but it was important to put something in place that addressed most issues. He added that some elements of the ordinance cannot be revised as they fall under state authority, but that he had been collecting feedback worthy of consideration for fine tuning.

7.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)

7.D.1. Congestion Management Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.E. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (LCB)

7.E.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report

Vice-Chair Pernas said the LCB approved the annual update to the LCB Grievance Policy/Procedures at the December 3, 2025 LCB meeting, adding language to the proposed update to specify that the number of days to take action excludes weekends and Collier County Government holidays, passing unanimously. The LCB also approved the Community Transportation Coordinator’s (CTC) Final Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), approved the FY 2024-25 Annual Operating Report and endorsed the submittal of Federal Transit Administration Sections 5310, 5311 and 5339 Grant Applications to Support the CTC.

8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)

8.A. Approve the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ms. McLaughlin reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) unanimously endorsed the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) endorsed it by a vote of 7–1. If the Board approves the plan, staff and the consultant, Jacobs Engineering, would complete a final review to address any scrivener’s errors or minor corrections before submitting it to FDOT, for a 90-day comment period.

Since the Board last reviewed the 2050 LRTP, several updates were made during the committee review process. The public comment period on the interactive map remained open, and Jacobs Engineering updated the public involvement section to include the most recent feedback. Comments received were minor and came from FDOT’s Multimodal Division and County Transportation Planning, helping to clarify

and clean up the document. All revisions had been incorporated. Jacobs Engineering staff were present to answer questions.

Ms. Thomas spoke on behalf of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, stating that the Conservancy reviews road projects for environmental impacts during the LRTP process, and focuses on those posing the greatest ecological risk. She noted that many of the most concerning segments were not included in the Cost Feasible Plan. One such project is the proposed I-75 interchange near Everglades Blvd. Although described as being “in the vicinity,” it may be intended to serve large developments awaiting federal permits. She emphasized that FDOT rejected an interchange at this location in 2012 because short-distance local trips conflict with state and federal policies for interstate use and that the County should instead pursue realistic alternatives to improve traffic flow within Golden Gate Estates and between the Estates and western Collier County.

There is also concern about Big Cypress Parkway, as it would destroy and fragment primary panther habitat and could isolate more than 4,000 acres of critical land. Its proximity to major public lands raises additional concerns about runoff and watershed impacts. Although the road is required for several planned villages, she noted that Collier County taxpayers would bear nearly all associated costs. She thanked the Board for its work on the LRTP and for considering the Conservancy’s comments.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Council Member Schwan seconded.

Roll Call Vote.

Chair Kowal – Yes

Vice-Chair Pernas – Yes

Commissioner Saunders – Yes

Commissioner LoCastro – Yes

Commissioner McDaniel – Yes

Council Member Schwan – Yes

Council Member Barton – Yes

Council Member Penniman – Yes

Passed unanimously.

9. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)

9.A. MPO Executive Director Interviews and Candidate Selection

Ms. Lyberg explained that the Board selected 3 out of 11 candidates who applied for the Collier MPO Executive Director position to be invited to interview for the position. All 3 candidates accepted the invitation and were present: Vinod Sandanasamy, Carmen Monroy, and Nicholas Danu. The 3 applicants would give a presentation highlighting their knowledge, experience, and ability to perform the tasks associated with the position. Following the presentations, the candidates would answer interview questions posed by each Board member.

Ms. Monroy, Mr. Sandanasamy, and Mr. Danu provided presentations (which can be obtained by contacting Collier MPO), followed by a Q&A session and then closing statements. The Board members provided their ranking sheets to **Ms. Lyberg** and **Mr. Rodriguez**, who tallied the scores, and announced that **Ms. Monroy** was the top-ranking candidate.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved that **Chair Kowal** handle the contract negotiations and **Commissioner Saunders** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

Ms. Lyberg explained that **Ms. Monroy** would go through the regular Collier County Human Resources hiring process, with a contract to be approved at the February 13, 2026 MPO Board meeting and a scheduled start date for February 17, 2026.

10. PRESENTATIONS (MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION)

None.

11. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

11.A. Letter to FDOT District 1 Secretary Dated November 17, 2025

The item was distributed.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Saunders congratulated the MPO staff and director on their good work, thanked the three Executive Director candidates for their time, and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Council Member Barton thanked all three highly qualified candidates and added that the City of Naples was drafting an ordinance in regard to e-bikes expected to be completed by January 2026.

Council Member Schwan thanked the candidates and the MPO staff for their support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah.

Council Member Penniman thanked **Ms. McLaughlin** for her work.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

13.A. February 13, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112.

14. ADJOURN

*There being no further business, **Chair Kowal** adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:21 p.m.*