

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Board of County Commission Chambers
Collier County Government Center
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor
Naples, FL 34112
December 13, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present (in BCC Chambers)

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

Members Absent

None

MPO Staff

Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner
Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II
Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

FDOT

L.K. Nandam, District One Secretary
Wayne Gaither, Manager, District 1 Southwest Area Office
Jason Heironimus, Public Information Officer
Marcellus Evans, District 1 Community Liaison

Others Present

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney
Trinity Scott, Department Head, Collier County Transportation Mgmt. Services
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning, TAC Chair
Julianne Thomas, Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Sonal Dodia, Jacobs Engineering
Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition

Zoom Participants

Anne McLaughlin, MPO Executive Director
Dasha Kosheleva, FDOT
Julian Guterrez

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair McDaniel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

4.A. Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

4.B. Ratify the Approval of the Executive Director’s completion and submission of the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Checklist for Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant as an administrative act

4.C. Approve Amendment 5 to the Public Transit Grant Agreement (G1V40)

4.D. Approve Amendment 4 to the Public Transit Grant Agreement (G2594)

Council Member Pernas moved to approve the agenda, previous minutes, and consent items and Vice-Chair Kowal seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

6. AGENCY UPDATES

6.A. FDOT

Mr. Gaither presented a video on the FDOT Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-30 Work Program.

Mr. Gaither said FDOT had gone through the process of working with the MPO, Collier County, and the local municipalities to identify projects for designation in the Work Program and budget the

program to be sure it is balanced. FDOT held public hearings from December 9 – 13, 2024. The draft Work Program was presented for comment. FDOT would continue to work with the MPO and the County.

FDOT would be working with the MPO and the County to gather feedback to be included when the draft is presented to the State Legislature, and for adoption by Governor DeSantis on July 1, 2025.

Vice-Chair Kowal said he had received emails from constituents regarding road surface issues on US 41 from 5th Avenue heading as far east as Golden Gate with potholes and uneven pavement.

Secretary Nandam said that US 41 was experiencing major drainage issues and the pipes that run across US 41 were failing. Last year, FDOT started the process of addressing drainage issues. One of the southbound lanes on US 41 would have to be excavated, multiple inlets would be replaced as well as other work. The project estimate was \$40 million, as there were many areas all along US 41 that would need to be addressed. A consultant had been hired for the project and the design phase was in progress. FDOT would look for funding for the project in FY 2030-31 to be programmed in the next Work Program cycle, but in the meantime, maintenance repairs would be done as needed.

Council Member Penniman asked about the status of raising of US 41.

Secretary Nandam said the consultant would assess the possibility of the raising of the road, and the results would be provided.

He said the Moving Florida Forward (MFF) projects include the widening of State Rd (SR) 29 from New Market to SR 82 project and the Immokalee loop road project were both scheduled for 2027.

The 18.5 mile widening of I-75 from Golden Gate Parkway to Corkscrew Road project was originally programmed as one project at approximately \$620 million, but FDOT had received feedback from industry professionals that a project that size would take approximately four to five years to complete. So, in light of an anticipated lengthy project timeline and the unknown of future costs, FDOT developed a Modified Phase Build, dividing the project into four segments for funding in FY 2027-32. The first segment is included in the draft FY 2026-30 Work Program.

Spreading out costs for the I-75 widening project made funding available in the first segment of the Work Program for the Immokalee Diverging Diamond Interchange project. FDOT worked with Collier County and the MPO, and local partnership funding from the County helped move the project forward. He said the 951/Collier Blvd. Widening project was pushed out again because of funding. Local partnering could help bring the project back to life.

A group discussion followed regarding various projects, including the deferral of the 951 Widening project due to funding, the steady progression of the 951 and I-75 project, project timelines, and the Immokalee loop road project, and that the full 18.5 mile widening of I-75 from Golden Gate to Corkscrew project was estimated to be completed in 2032.

Commissioner LoCastro asked for renderings of the projects. **Secretary Nandam** said he would locate renderings and send them.

Ms. Scott expressed her gratitude to **Secretary Nandam**, the MPO Board, and the County Commissioners for their support in advancing the I-75/Immokalee Road Interchange project. She said she would continue to work with FDOT and the MPO to devise a strategy to advance the fully designed 951 Widening project through local funding.

She noted that there were ongoing conversations between the County and FDOT regarding updating the Interlocal Agreement to continue funding after FY 2027 for the operations and maintenance of the fire station facility at Mile Marker 63, which is a very important project for Collier County . Ms. Scott said she was working with FDOT on a strategy to revise the design of MFF project, I-75 at Pine Ridge, as some necessary design elements had been overlooked.

Secretary Nandam said during the legislative cycle in the year prior, there had been some modifications of the language and the current funding, which was capped at \$2 million, was scheduled to end in 2027. The fire station informed FDOT that expenses were over \$2 million. To sustainably source funding for the fire station, FDOT requested that the fire station develop a five-year capital plan to support necessary funding, which would be renegotiated every five years.

Mr. Gaither introduced FDOT’s new MPO liaison, **Mr. Evans**.

6.B. MPO

None.

7. CHAIR REPORTS

7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

Report presented in writing.

7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

Report presented in writing.

7.C. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

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

Report presented in writing.

Vice-Chair Kowal said that a recent meeting he had with BPAC Chair, Anthony Matonti, local traffic enforcement, and County legal staff, culminated in a possible draft ordinance to regulate e-bikes. The draft was rejected by the County Sheriff legal staff. **Vice-Chair Kowal** encouraged all concerned to reach out to the Sheriff to inquire as to why the draft ordinance was rejected. He said that the state manages state roads, but attempting to regulate e-bikes on sidewalks is a local issue.

Chair McDaniel suggested inviting Sheriff legal staff to a Board meeting to further the discussion.

A group discussion followed regarding the need for e-bike regulations because of the dangerous conditions unregulated e-bike riders create by reckless riding, *e.g.*, riding the opposite way on the road, jumping out in front of traffic, et cetera.

Secretary Nandam said he is part of statewide bike-ped safety coalition, facing the same challenges regarding e-bikes. Law enforcement informed the coalition that the current definition for electric bikes does not incorporate privately owned electric bikes (only rentals). The coalition proposed a definition change to include personal e-bikes, and **Secretary Nandam** offered to provide the Board with the language. He suggested the Board talk to their legislative delegates about updating the definition.

Vice-Chair Kowal said sidewalks fall under county jurisdiction. If an e-bike leaves the sidewalk and hits a car, the state categorizes the e-bike as pedestrian traffic. The state cannot help if the County doesn't have ordinance in place for e-bikes.

A group discussion followed, regarding possible measures that might be taken to combat the e-bike issue and **Vice-Chair Kowal** said he would have the draft ordinance sent to everyone for reference.

7.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)

7.D.1. Congestion Management Committee Chair Report

Report presented in writing.

7.E. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

7.E.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report

Report presented in writing.

8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)

8.A. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Addition of a Transit Project to Fund a Replacement Bus

Mr. Kingston said the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add non-budgeted Federal Transit Authority (FTA) funds to purchase vehicles/equipment for a replacement bus over 30 feet.

Vice-Chair Kowal moved to approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Addition of a Transit Project to Fund a Replacement Bus and Commissioner LoCastro seconded.

Roll Call Vote.

Commissioner McDaniel – Yes

Commissioner Kowal – Yes

Commissioner Hall – Yes

Commissioner LoCastro – Yes

Commissioner Saunders - Yes

Council Member Barton – Yes

Council Member Penniman – Yes

Council Member Schwan - Yes

Council Member Pernas – Yes

Passed unanimously.

8.B. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Operational and Capital Funding for Easter Seals Transit Projects

Mr. Kingston said FDOT requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2025-2029 TIP to add funding for operating expenses for the Easter Seals transit program and capital funds for van purchase/expansion for the Easter Seals transit program so that federal funds could be authorized. A local fund match for both would come from Easter Seals.

Council Member Barton moved to approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Operational and Capital Funding for Easter Seals Transit Projects and Commissioner LoCastro seconded.

Roll Call Vote.

Commissioner McDaniel – Yes

Commissioner Kowal – Yes

Commissioner Hall – Yes

Commissioner LoCastro – Yes

Commissioner Saunders - Yes

Council Member Barton – Yes

Council Member Penniman – Yes

Council Member Schwan - Yes

Council Member Pernas – Yes

Passed unanimously.

REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)

9.A. Approve Amendment 1 to the FY 2024/25-2025/26 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Hansen said the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as the MPO's two-year budget document and identification of the deliverables that the MPO provides. She said a revised Executive Summary had been distributed to the Board to correct an error in the second table included, which had also been corrected in the online version of the December 13, 2024 MPO Agenda Packet.

FDOT had provided the MPO with an additional \$13,765 in planning funds for the fiscal year and requested that the MPO amend its UPWP (and the underlying MPO agreement) to reflect the additional funds.

Since the UPWP was adopted in May 2024, some consultant billings had been reconciled through the end of the last UPWP period. Changes in the Amendment include the addition of a regional element to the Congestion Management Process (CMP) with the Lee MPO in FY 2025 and a reallocation of funds between categories for MPO staff salary tasks, consultant services, and travel and professional development. A transit fare study, funded with the Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement Division (PTNE), had also been added to the scope of work for Task 6 in FY 2025. The amounts of PTNE's funding contributions for both the transit fare study and the zero emission fleet transition plan has also been updated.

Council Member Schwan moved to approve an Amendment 1 to the FY 24/25-25/26 Unified Planning Work Program and Council Member Penniman seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.B. Approve the MPO's Amended Public Participation Plan

Ms. Hansen said that the MPO's current Public Participation Plan (PPP) was updated in 2020. The MPO's Federal Certification Review process and request for documents prompted staff to initiate a clean-up amendment to update the PPP to reflect current demographics and requirements. The MPO provided a draft to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA provided comments on the updated draft, which have been incorporated. The required public comment period was met.

Ms. Hansen reviewed some details of the updates that had been made (which can be viewed in the December 13, 2024 MPO Agenda Packet).

Commissioner Hall moved to approve the MPO's Amended Public Participation Plan project and Council Member Penniman seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.C. Approve Proposed 2025 MPO Meeting Calendar

Ms. Miceli said this was a request for the Board to approve the proposed 2025 MPO Meeting Calendar, which includes a special MPO Board meeting date request on Thursday, December 11, 2025,

instead of the regularly scheduled meeting date of December 12, 2025, as the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) must be adopted by December 11, 2025. The MPO was notified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that that there would be no grace period for this deadline. She requested that the Board approve the proposed 2025 MPO Meeting Calendar which includes the special MPO Board meeting date on December 11, 2025.

Chair McDaniel asked if the LRTP could be adopted in November.

Ms. Hansen said that a November adoption date could be attempted, but that in an abundance of caution, the MPO would also hold the December 11, 2025 date.

Council Member Pernas moved to approve the 2025 MPO Meeting Schedule and Council Member Penniman seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.D. Accept the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Involvement Plan, Chapter 1 Introduction, and Chapter 3 Planning Context and Decision-Making Framework

Ms. Hansen said the proposed plan and draft chapters were being presented to the Board for acceptance rather than adoption, as there would likely be modifications to the chapters as the plan continues to be developed. At the last MPO Board meeting, MPO consultant, Jacobs Engineering provided an overview of the documents in the 2050 LRTP process. FDOT provided comments which were incorporated to FDOT's satisfaction. The draft was endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) endorsed the draft with the provision that bus-rapid transit be included as a weighting criterion.

Vice-Chair Kowal moved to accept the 2050 LRTP Public Involvement Plan and Chapters 1 and 3 and Council Member Penniman seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.E. Approve Three Reappointments and Appoint a New Member to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Ms. Miceli said three Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) members were requesting membership renewal and there was also a new appointment request by a BPAC member elect. Reappointments included, Patty Huff, a year-round resident of Everglades City and member of the Naples Pathways Coalition (NPC), BPAC's Vice-Chair, Michelle Sproviero, an active member of both Naples Velo and NPC, and Robert Phelan, active BPAC member who has served on various MPO committees since 2016.

BPAC member elect, David Sutton, a financial advisor who served on Colorado's City of Lone Tree Planning Commission before relocating to Naples, expressed great enthusiasm for joining BPAC.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve Three Reappointments and Appoint a New Member to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Council Member Schwan seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.F. Approve the Reappointment of a Citizens Advisory Committee Member

Ms. Miceli said Mr. Neal Gelfand was serving as the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Vice-Chair and that he expressed interest in continuing to serve on CAC. **Commissioner Hall** had expressed his support of the reappointment of Mr. Gelfand to serve a another 3-year term as the District II representative on the CAC.

Council Member Penniman moved to approve the Reappointment of a Citizens Advisory Committee Member and Commissioner Hall seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.G. Approve Annual Performance Review of MPO Executive Director

Ms. Hansen said that MPO Executive Director Anne McLaughlin’s contract calls for an annual evaluation consistent with a previously approved Annual Performance Evaluation Plan. **Ms. Hansen** thanked all of the Board members for submitting their evaluations. The Board found that Ms. McLaughlin exceeds standards in areas including sustained public outreach, program implementation, and policy and plans.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve Annual Performance Review of MPO Executive Director and Vice-Chair Kowal seconded. Passed unanimously.

10. Reports and Presentations

10.A. FDOT FY 2026-2030 Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program

Ms. Hansen said that FDOT released the FY 2026-2030 Draft Tentative Work Program on November 18, 2024, which includes the additions of Moving Florida Forward (MFF) projects, I-75 from Pine Ridge to Immokalee, and from Immokalee to Bonita Beach, and the I-75 Immokalee Diverging Diamond Interchange. Some Bike-Ped projects had been deferred and some resurfacing projects were deferred or deleted.

10.B. Collier MPO Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

Ms. Hansen said that the MPO Director prepares an Annual Report for the Board. The Annual Report provides basic information about the MPO such as the annual operating budget and Transportation Improvement Program, and tracks progress made towards achieving the MPO’s adopted performance measures and targets.

Ms. Hansen provided a brief presentation on the report.

11. Distribution Items

11.A. Administrative Modification to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (County Barn Road Bike/Ped, Marco Island Collier Alternate Bike Lane, and Capital and

Operating Assistance Transit projects)

This item was distributed.

11.B. Administrative Modification to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (Transit Sec. 5311 Operating Assistance Increase for FY25)

This item was distributed.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Saunders thanked the MPO staff and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for a good year and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Hall wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Penniman wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Vice-Chair Kowal thanked everyone for their work and wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas and reminded everyone to be safe.

Council Member Pernas thanked Collier County and FDOT for their great work clearing the vegetation in Everglades City after the hurricane.

Council Member Schwan thanked everyone for welcoming her and she looked forward to representing the City of Marco Island on the Board and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Barton wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner LoCastro thanked **Mr. Gaither** for his efficiency and attention to the needs of the County.

Chair McDaniel said he recently drove 6,000 miles conducting an annual wildlife survey throughout the country and when he got to Florida highways, especially in Collier County, he saw an abundance of trash along I-75 and asked that FDOT attend to it.

Commissioner LoCastro said **Mr. Gaither** had recently corresponded with him regarding the status and activity of the clean-up work FDOT was doing along I-75 and **Commissioner LoCastro** suggested **Mr. Gaither** send the information to the entire MPO Board.

Mr. Gaither confirmed that he would send the information to the Board.

Chair McDaniel wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

13.A. February 14, 2025- 9:30 a.m. Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

14. ADJOURN

There being no further business, **Chair McDaniel** adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:46 a.m.