

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Board of County Commission Chambers  
Collier County Government Center  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor  
Naples, FL 34112  
February 13, 2026 | 9:30 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 9:30 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Present (in BCC Chambers)**

Commissioner Dan Kowal, *Chair until item 4.A.*

Commissioner Chris Hall

Commissioner Rick LoCastro

Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr.

Council Member Berne Barton

Council Member Bonita Schwan, *Vice-Chair (and acting Chair for meeting) starting at item 4.A.*

**Members Present via Zoom**

Council Member Tony Pernas, *Vice-Chair, then Chair starting at item 4.A.*

**Members Absent**

Commissioner Burt L. Saunders

Council Member Linda Penniman

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Planner III

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

**FDOT**

Wayne Gaither, Director, District 1 Southwest Area Office

Marcellus Evans, District 1 Community Liaison

Adam Rose, PD&E Project Manager

**Others Present**

Carmen Monroy, Collier MPO Executive Director Candidate  
Trinity Scott, Collier County Transportation Management Services Department Head  
Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney  
Lorraine Lantz, Planning Manager, Collier County Transportation Planning  
Anthony Matonti, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)  
Linda Hess, WGI  
Michelle Avola Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition  
Ravyn Sylvia, Kimley-Horn  
Matt Dockins, HNTB

*Commissioner Kowal moved to approve Vice-Chair Pernas participating virtually via Zoom, and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chair Kowal** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. ELECT CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2026**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that according to the MPO bylaws, every year at the first meeting of the year a new chair and vice-chair must be elected. Any board member may nominate or be nominated as chair, vice chair, and elections are decided by majority vote.

*Commissioner Kowal moved to elect Vice-Chair Pernas as Chair for 2026, and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

*Commissioner Kowal moved to elect Council Member Schwan as Vice-Chair for 2026, and Council Member Barton seconded. Passed unanimously.*

*As Chair Pernas was not present in-person, Vice-Chair Schwan chaired the meeting.*

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CONSENT ITEMS**

**5.A. Approval of December 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**5.B. Request to Ratify the MPO Manager’s Approval of an Administrative Extension of General Planning Services Agreements for Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. and Alfred Benesch & Company f/k/a Tindale-Oliver**

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the agenda, previous minutes, and consent items and Commissioner Hall seconded. Passed unanimously.*

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

**Ms. Avola Brown** reported on Hands-Free Florida. She traveled to Tallahassee to support the original language of House Bill 1241, but the bill had been rewritten and no longer functioned as a hands-free measure. Although it passed the subcommittee unanimously, it stalled in the House, and the Senate Transportation Committee has ended its meetings, leaving no path forward for 2026. She said the Naples Pathways Coalition will resume efforts in 2027 and thanked **Commissioner Kowal** for meeting with Representative Blanco and said Representative Blanco said he would pursue it in 2027.

**Commissioner Hall** asked why it was stalled.

**Ms. Avola Brown** said Representative Cheney has told several Coalition members that she considers herself a capable distracted driver and feels safer holding her phone than using a mounted device. She noted that this perspective overlooks the broader safety issue, commenting that such reasoning reflects a self-focused viewpoint.

## 7. AGENCY UPDATES

### 7.A. FDOT

**Mr. Gaither** conveyed Secretary Jamie Driggers' apologies for being unable to attend, noting that the legislative session in Tallahassee required his attention. Ongoing discussions with state officials and the high cost of current earmark requests are prompting the department to consider potential budget adjustments. Even if certain earmarks are vetoed, the underlying budget pressures remain, affecting available funding for the year. He added that this issue has not been addressed during the current session and noted that the Board has previously heard his comments regarding earmarks.

### 7.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Ms. McLaughlin** announced that this would be her final Board meeting, as she will retire in March 2026. She said it had been a pleasure working with the Board. She added that, assuming the contract for incoming Collier MPO Executive Director Carmen Monroy is approved, **Ms. Monroy** will lead the March 13, 2026 MPO Board meeting.

## 8. CHAIR REPORTS

### 8.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

#### 8.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

*The report was presented in writing.*

## **8.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

### **8.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report**

*The report was presented in writing.*

## **8.C. BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

### **8.C.1. Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair Report**

**Mr. Matonti** reported that FDOT advised the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) that projects without an active PD&E will not be funded and emphasized the importance of moving additional projects into PD&E to maintain eligibility. BPAC held its annual elections, with him re-elected as Chair and Michelle Sproviero re-elected as Vice-Chair. He expressed appreciation for the committee's long-standing and new members, adding that the committee did not take action on potential comments regarding e-bike and bicycle-pedestrian regulations because the committee would not meet in February but would participate in a joint meeting with the Lee County MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) in March.

A group discussion followed, during which members emphasized the need to monitor pending State House and Senate action on e-bike legislation. **Mr. Matonti** noted that BPAC could likely provide comments in April, following its project application cycle and the annual joint meeting with the Lee County MPO BPAC. He added that Collier's BPAC is citizen-led, while Lee County's is more technical in structure, making the joint meeting a useful opportunity for coordination. **Commissioner Kowal** noted that the County's ordinance includes a 15-mph speed limit on shared pathways and sidewalks. **Vice-Chair Schwan** added that Marco Island has a 12-mph limit on shared-use paths. In response to a question about enforcement, she said Marco Island had been in an education period but planned to begin reporting citations. **Commissioner Kowal** noted that deputies in the CRA area have issued warnings, though countywide data is not consistently reported.

Members discussed the need for more formal data on e-bike-related incidents. A third-party report of a crash on the Gordon Greenway bike path in which no citation was issued was mentioned, underscoring the importance of accurate documentation rather than anecdotal accounts. It was noted that proposed Senate legislation may require reporting details such as the type of device involved and the rider's age.

**Mr. Gaither** added that FDOT's policy is not to initiate a PD&E study unless there is a viable plan to complete the project within eight years, to avoid accumulating unfunded studies or designs. He said FDOT continues to work with MPOs statewide to advance projects to construction as efficiently as possible. **Mr. Matonti** said he would raise the e-bike discussion with Lee County and noted that some jurisdictions, such as Sanibel, have 20-mph limits in certain areas. He said Lee County may also have relevant data or observations to share.

**8.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)**

**8.D.1. Congestion Management Committee Chair Report**

*The report was presented in writing.*

**9. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)**

**9.A. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program – three new transit projects: operating assistance, capital to purchase vehicles/equipment, and operating assistance awarded to Easter Seals Florida**

**Mr. Kingston** said FDOT requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for three new transit projects: 448810-1: Add a new transit project for capital to purchase vehicles/equipment; 448810-2: Add a new transit project for operating assistance for paratransit; and 446904-1: Add a new transit project for operating assistance to Easter Seals for paratransit.

***Commissioner LoCastro** moved to approve the Amendment to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program – three new transit projects: operating assistance, capital to purchase vehicles/equipment, and operating assistance awarded to Easter Seals Florida, and **Commissioner McDaniel** seconded.*

**Roll Call Vote.**

***Commissioner Kowal** – Yes*

***Council Member Pernas** – Yes*

***Commissioner Hall** – Yes*

***Commissioner LoCastro** – Yes*

***Commissioner McDaniel** – Yes*

***Council Member Schwan** – Yes*

***Council Member Barton** – Yes*

*Passed unanimously.*

**10. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)**

**10.A. Approve the Employment Agreement of the Incoming Collier MPO Executive Director**

**Ms. McLaughlin** reported that the Board interviewed candidates on December 11, 2025, and selected **Ms. Monroy**. The Board Chair worked with the County Attorney’s Office and **Ms. Monroy** to finalize a satisfactory employment agreement, which has been reviewed and is presented for approval.

***Commissioner Kowal** moved to approve the Employment Agreement of the Incoming Collier MPO Executive Director. and **Commissioner Hall** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**10.B. Elect Representatives to Serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Board for 2026**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said the current Collier MPO primary representative is Commissioner William McDaniel, Jr., and the current alternate representative is Commissioner Burt Saunders. The MPO Executive Director had reached out to Commissioners McDaniel and Saunders respectively and confirmed that Commissioner McDaniel desires to continue as primary representative for 2026 and Commissioner Saunders is willing to continue as an alternate representative for 2026.

*Commissioner Kowal moved to approve Commissioner McDaniel to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Board for 2026 and Commissioner Saunders as the alternate, and Council Member Barton seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**10.C. Approve Two Reappointments to the Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Mr. Kingston** said that two Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) memberships were up for renewal, each for another three-year term. Mr. Fred Sasser has been an active member representing the City of Naples since 2018, was the past Vice-Chair, and was recently reapproved of this role by the Committee at their January meeting. His membership expires in February of this year and he has expressed interest in continuing to serve. The City Council voted unanimously to support Mr. Sasser for another term on the Committee. Mr. Josh Rincon has applied to serve another term representing Minorities. He has served as a Committee member since 2013.

*Chair Pernas moved to approve the reappointments to the Citizens Advisory Committee, and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**10.D. Approve Four Reappointments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**Mr. Kingston** said four BPAC membership were set to expire at the end of February. All BPAC memberships are at-large. Each member has been active with the Committee, and all were applying for re-appointment. Staff were recommending that these members be reappointed for new two-year terms. Mr. Musico's membership began in 2007. He has been a highly effective advocate for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure for the City of Marco Island and Collier MPO for over twenty years. Mr. Bonness' membership began in 2005. He has over 20 years of bike and pedestrian advocacy and is a world champion triathlete with much education, training, work experience, and participation in bike and pedestrian related matters. Mr. Dohm participates in organized groups of bike rides several days per week. He is also a retired United Airlines pilot who was the former Chair of the Board of Directors of Chicago Airport. His membership began in 2024. Mr. Vigorito participates in the Pan-Florida Challenge cycling fund raising organization. He has participated in various boards and committees and community service and is a retired medical professional with experience in Blue Zones. His membership began in 2024.

A group discussion followed, during which **Commissioner LoCastro** asked whether the BPAC seats up for reappointment had been publicly advertised or whether current members were simply invited to continue serving. He noted that, at the County level, vacancies are broadly advertised to encourage new

applicants and avoid the perception of automatic reappointment. He emphasized that while long-serving members provide valuable experience, open recruitment helps bring in new perspectives and ensures transparency. **Vice-Chair Schwan** stated that the Collier MPO newsletter includes a standing notice inviting residents to apply for committee positions. Mr. Kingston added that openings are listed in the newsletter and distributed through the MPO’s advisory network. He explained that when BPAC terms near expiration, current members are notified and may reapply.

**Commissioner LoCastro** responded that newsletter notices alone may not reach many residents and suggested more proactive outreach—similar to County practice—so potential applicants are aware of upcoming vacancies well in advance. He stressed that broader communication could attract a more diverse pool of candidates while still allowing experienced members to be reappointed.

**Ms. McLaughlin** welcomed the suggestion, noting that the MPO has struggled to fill seats on the Citizen Advisory Committee and would benefit from wider outreach.

***Vice-Chair Schwan** moved to approve the reappointments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and **Commissioner LoCastro** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

#### **10.E. Adopt Florida Department of Transportation Target Zero Safety Performance Targets for Calendar Year 2026**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that Safety Targets are the only federal Transportation Performance Measure that must be adopted annually. FDOT sets statewide safety targets through the Highway Safety Improvement Plan and is maintaining its Target Zero goals for 2026—zero fatalities and zero serious injuries on Florida roadways. MPOs may either adopt the statewide targets or establish their own.

She noted that the Collier MPO has consistently adopted FDOT’s targets, reaffirming its commitment to supporting statewide safety investments and prioritizing safety in the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. She referenced the performance metrics for the State and Collier County included in the 2050 LRTP System Performance Report, Appendix F, based on FDOT’s Source Book. **Ms. McLaughlin** added that the MPO must adopt safety targets each year by February 27 and that staff recommend continuing to support FDOT’s Target Zero initiative. She reported that local trends from 2016–2023, based on five-year rolling averages, generally mirror statewide patterns and encouraged continued adoption of the FDOT targets.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to adopt the Florida Department of Transportation’s Target Zero Safety Performance Targets for calendar year 2026 and **Commissioner Kowal** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**Commissioner McDaniel** said that while Target Zero is an admirable goal, greater emphasis must be placed on delivering the infrastructure needed to support it. He noted that significant bureaucratic barriers continue to delay critical safety improvements at well-known intersections throughout the community. He stressed that it is difficult to endorse a Target Zero commitment when essential, life-saving projects are not advancing due to competing priorities. He urged the District and FDOT to prioritize these improvements, so the Target Zero message aligns with on-the-ground action.

**Mr. Gaither** responded that he understood Commissioner McDaniel’s concerns and said FDOT is working to incorporate more flexible, innovative approaches to safety improvements. He acknowledged that required procedures can slow implementation but noted that the Department is coordinating with other districts to identify effective practices that could accelerate needed upgrades. He said he would follow up with additional information.

**Commissioner McDaniel** clarified that his comments were not directed at staff personally, but rather reflected frustration with delays in addressing well-known safety needs. He said it is difficult to support Target Zero while critical improvements remain stalled and emphasized that he expects a shift in priorities to ensure timely action on life-saving infrastructure.

## **11. PRESENTATIONS (MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION)**

### **11.A. FDOT Presentation on Livingston FPL Trail Extension PD&E Study**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said FDOT launched a PD&E study in late 2024 to determine the location and conceptual design of a Livingston FPL shared use path trail from Radio Road on the south end to the Collier County line on the north end.

**Ms. Hess** provided a presentation on the Livingston FPL Trail Extension PD&E Study (which can be viewed in the February 13, 2026 MPO Board Agenda). The study evaluates an 11.5-mile non-motorized corridor from Radio Rd to the Collier County line that would connect the Rich King Memorial Greenway to North Collier Regional Park and eventually to the Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT). The study reviewed two build alternatives: a 12-foot shared-use path along the west side of Livingston Road with minimal environmental and right-of-way impacts, and Alternative 2, a path within the FPL easement requiring multiple crossings, new bridges, significant fill, and much higher wetland impacts. Public input opposed Alternative 2, leading to a preferred alignment that is primarily Alternative 1 with one short segment in the FPL easement near Pine Ridge Rd where a dedicated trail easement already exists.

A group discussion followed and Board members discussed concerns raised by Briarwood residents regarding security and unwanted activity if the trail were routed through their community. Commissioners also requested consideration of lighting and fencing during future design phases to address safety and privacy concerns. Additional comments from BPAC emphasized the need to address sun exposure for trail users. Staff noted that such design elements are typically addressed during later phases once the alignment is finalized.

## **12. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS**

### **12.A. Updated 2026 Collier MPO Meeting Calendar**

*The item was distributed.*

### **12.B. Letter of Support for Neal Gelfand for Greater Naples Leadership Distinguished Leadership Award**

*The item was distributed.*

### 13. MEMBER COMMENTS

**Commissioner LoCastro** requested that pressure continue to be applied to FDOT regarding persistent trash accumulation along I-75 and Collier Boulevard. He noted that while cleanup efforts are noticeable when crews are active, debris quickly returns, particularly from the Jolly Bridge to U.S. 41, where dense vegetation traps litter and heavy construction traffic contributes to the problem. He asked for an update on FDOT's litter-removal teams, recalling prior staffing shortages and contractor transitions, and emphasized the need to set realistic public expectations given the limited number of crews and the loss of many volunteer groups after COVID. He also clarified that organizations such as Keep Collier Beautiful focus primarily on beaches and parks rather than interstate corridors and asked whether FDOT currently has adequate resources or is operating in a constrained period between teams.

**Mr. Gaither** reported that FDOT is well-staffed and that asset-maintenance crews remain in place, allowing the department to maintain its established level of service in Collier County, including recent enhanced litter pickups. He noted that roadside trash volumes have remained fairly consistent and that a recent increase in trash collected at rest areas suggests greater use of designated disposal facilities. He stated that an updated litter-removal report will be provided at the next MPO Board meeting.

**Commissioner McDaniel** thanked **Ms. McLaughlin**, stating it had been an honor and a pleasure to serve with her. He praised her professionalism, diligence, and loyalty to the organization, noting her contributions had been exceptional. He said he was grateful for their years of service together, expressed the Board's collective well-wishes for her next chapter, and emphasized that she would be greatly missed.

He added that the County had received a positive update from Congressman Mario Díaz-Balart confirming \$2 million in federal funding for the continuation of studying a partial interchange at I-75 and Everglades Boulevard. He emphasized the critical importance of this project as essential health, safety, and welfare infrastructure. He noted that he and Commissioner Kowal recently met with the new District Secretary in Tallahassee, who is fully aware of the project and its significance. **Commissioner McDaniel** stressed the need to ensure the funds are used efficiently and to pursue every possible measure to achieve the goal of opening the partial interchange.

**Mr. Gaither** stated that FDOT is actively moving the project forward and now has the necessary funding in place. He said the required studies for the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) process will be initiated and noted that FDOT staff have already been in contact with County staff regarding next steps.

**Vice-Chair Schwan** thanked **Ms. McLaughlin**, stating it was a pleasure to work with her and wishing her well as she enjoys the sunsets she often spoke about.

### 14. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

**15. ADJOURN**

*There being no further business, **Vice-Chair Schwan** adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:33 a.m.*