

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Board of County Commission Chambers  
Collier County Government Center  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor  
Naples, FL 34112  
February 14 2025 | 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. Hansen** called roll and confirmed a quorum was present in the room.

**Members Present (in BCC Chambers)**

Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., (*Chair until item 4*)

Commissioner Dan Kowal, (*Vice-Chair until item 4*), *Chair*

Commissioner Burt L. Saunders

Commissioner Chris Hall

Commissioner Rick LoCastro

Council Member Bonita Schwan

Council Member Berne Barton

**Members Absent**

Council Member Tony Pernas, *Vice-Chair*

Council Member Linda Penniman

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

**FDOT**

Wayne Gaither, Manager, District 1 Southwest Area Office

Jason Heironimus, Public Information Officer

Marcellus Evans, District 1 Community Liaison

Jason Heironimus, Public Information Officer

Matthew Dockins, Consultant

Vitor Suguri, District 1 Planning Manager  
Steven Andrews, Project Manager

**Others Present**

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney  
Trinity Scott, Department Head, Collier County Transportation Mgmt. Services  
Stacy Meekins, TYLin  
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning, TAC Chair  
Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**4. ELECT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

*Chair McDaniel moved to nominate Vice-Chair Kowal as Chair and Commissioner Hall seconded. Passed unanimously.*

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to nominate Council Member Pernas as Vice-Chair and Chair Kowal seconded. Passed unanimously.*

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

**5.A. Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes**

**5.B. Approve Administrative Change Order 1 for Alfred Benesch & Company for the Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan**

**5.C. Recommendation to Approve Sixth Amendment to Collier MPO Executive Director Employment Agreement extending the term of employment for one year**

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

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

None.

**7. AGENCY UPDATES**

**7.A. FDOT**

**Mr. Gaither** said with legislation in the air, there may be a potential for reprioritizing of projects in the Work Program and a reallocation of funds if an MPO proposes an earmarked project from their List of Priority Projects. FDOT is working on their List of Priority Projects, with consideration that rising costs may affect project completion.

**Mr. Evans** said that the District One Safety Strategic Plan public workshop would be held March 17, 2025, from 3-5pm at the North Fort Myers Public Library.

**Chair Kowal** asked who is responsible to handle a drainage issue near S.R. 84 and Kings Lake Blvd. Water runs off the road through the shopping center into a retention pond in the Kings Lake neighborhood and is often backed up. He said he would like to schedule a meeting with FDOT and Collier County Transportation Head, Trinity Scott, to discuss what the protocol would be for managing water drainage coming from state roads. **Chair Kowal** mentioned there is also a question of responsibility for a drainage issue off Sandpiper Rd., which runs between the City of Naples and Collier County.

**Mr. Gaither** said FDOT had been in discussion with County staff regarding the issues, and said he would schedule a meeting with Chair Kowal for further discussion.

**Council Member Barton** said he would welcome a discussion with **Chair Kowal** regarding the drainage issue on Sandpiper Rd, as it is also a priority for the City of Naples.

**7.B. MPO**

None.

**8. CHAIR REPORTS**

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

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

*Report presented in writing.*

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

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

*Report presented in writing.*

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

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

*Report presented in writing.*

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

**9.A. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Addition of a Transit Project for Capital for Paratransit**

**Mr. Kingston** said The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to add capital to purchase vehicles/equipment for paratransit.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Addition of a Transit Project for Capital for Paratransit and Commissioner Hall 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 Schwan – Yes*

*Passed unanimously.*

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

**10.A. Elect Representatives to Serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Board for 2025**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that the current Collier MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Board (MPOAC) representatives, **Commissioner McDaniel** as primary and **Commissioner Saunders** as alternate, would be amenable to continuing in their roles.

*Chair Kowal moved to reelect Commissioner McDaniel and Commissioner Saunders as representatives to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Board for 2025 and Council Member Schwan seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**10.B. Adopt Florida Department of Transportation Target Zero Safety Performance Targets for Calendar Year 2025**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said FDOT's Target Zero Safety Performance Targets must be adopted annually. She mentioned that safety issues were trending up in recent years, and that items of concern would be addressed in the Collier MPO's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) presentation in item 11.A.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to adopt the Florida Department of Transportation Target Zero Safety Performance Targets for Calendar Year 2025 and **Commissioner Saunders** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

#### **10.C. Approve a Reappointment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**Ms. Miceli** said that the term for Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair Anthony Matonti was up for renewal, noting that with Mr. Matonti's experience with MPOs, the Florida Department of Transportation, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, and his work as an urban planner, staff recommended that the Board approve the reappointment.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve a reappointment Anthony Matonti to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and **Council Member Schwan** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**Commissioner LoCastro** asked about the status of the Board's request for a recommendation for a solution to the e-bike issue put forth to the BPAC.

**Chair Kowal** informed the Board that he had been in meetings with BPAC Chair, Mr. Matonti, the County Sheriff, and the State regarding the e-bike issue, which culminated in an Ordinance being drafted that he was trying to move forward. **Chair Kowal** said that although there had been no movement yet, he was exploring all possibilities for an Ordinance or regulations to take hold.

A group discussion followed, and it was mentioned that it may be up to the County and local municipalities to produce solutions to the e-bike issue and that there are facility considerations to accommodate e-bikes in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan update in development.

**Council Member Barton** mentioned that there is an Ordinance for the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) in the City of Naples which prohibits bicycles on sidewalks, and that the City is actively pursuing to further the ordinance beyond the CRA.

**Commissioner Saunders** requested that **Mr. Teach** research the way other municipalities are managing motorized micromobility and to find if any enforceable ordinances have been adopted that might work for Collier County.

**Ms. Avola-Brown** requested that if there is an ordinance that forbids motorized micromobility on sidewalks, that the Board include an education awareness campaign for drivers, as most bicyclist fatalities in Collier County occur when riders are struck by vehicles while riding in bike lanes.

The conversation continued regarding possible solutions with considerations of regulations that would be effective, safe, and enforceable.

**Council Member Schwan** mentioned that upon reviewing Chair Kowal's ordinance at a recent

Marco Island Ad Hoc Bike Lanes and Shared Paths Committee, the Committee suggested adding language to include all motorized micromobility, such as scooters.

**10.D. Approve a New Appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Ms. Miceli** said that the City of Everglades City requested to reassign Harry Henkel to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). With Mr. Henkel’s involvement in several Everglades City community organizations and excellent attendance at TAC, staff recommended that the Board approve the appointment.

*Commissioner Saunders moved to approve the appointment of Harry Henkel to the Citizens Advisory Committee and Commissioner LoCastro seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**10.E. Review and Approve Scope of Services for Joint Lee/Collier Regional Congestion Management Process**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that the idea for the joint study came from discussions arising from last year’s proposed bills before the state legislature regarding merging the Collier and Lee MPOs. The study would look at improving congestion and creating consistent signal timing across county lines, on roads between Alico Rd. on the north end and Immokalee Rd. on the south end. The study would be included as an element of each MPO’s individual Congestion Management Processes, which would be included in Collier MPO’s 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. Ms. McLaughlin requested that the Board approve Collier MPO to move forward in the procurement process to hire a consultant to develop Collier MPO’s component of a Joint Lee/Collier Regional Congestion Management Process (CMP) Element for the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

*Commissioner Hall moved to approve the Scope of Services for Joint Lee/Collier Regional Congestion Management Process and Council Member Schwan seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**11. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**11.A. Safe Streets and Roads for All - Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Update and Presentation on Draft Existing Conditions and Safety Analysis Memorandum**

**Ms. Meekins** provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the February 14, 2025 MPO Agenda).

**11.B. FDOT Presentation on Old 41 Project Development & Environment Study**

**Mr. Andrews** introduced **Mr. Dockins** and shared FDOT’s safety message.

**Mr. Dockins** provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the February 14, 2025 MPO Agenda).

A group discussion followed, regarding concerns about right-of-way cost estimates, whether there would be a potential need for relocation, and stormwater issues, and what other more cost effective techniques there might be, the cost feasibility of the project, and that redirecting analysis of the Project Development & Environment Study (PD&E) to focus on the intersections and shared-use paths might be a more efficient and effective choice, as Veterans Memorial Blvd. may offset some traffic congestion.

**Ms. McLaughlin** suggested that the reevaluated PD&E could be added as an addendum to the PD&E that had already been completed and that the proposed funding for the refocused study could be presented at a future meeting.

*Commissioner Saunders moved for the Old 41 Project Development & Environment Study to be reevaluated to focus on improving intersections and adding bicycle and pedestrian facilities and Commissioner Hall seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**Mr. Dockins** said he would work on a redirected study effort and mentioned that the goal was to complete the project before June 2026, when stormwater rules would change, making the project more challenging to complete.

#### **11.C. Report on Status of Lee County and Collier MPO Consolidation Feasibility Study**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that FDOT approached Lee and Collier MPO to fund and administer a consolidation feasibility study, budgeted at \$250,000, and requested input on a potential scope of tasks. The reason for the study is last year's legislative session, Senate Bill 1032, which included a requirement for the Lee and Collier MPOs to conduct a feasibility study on consolidating the two MPOs. Though the legislation did not get to a final vote, it is likely to come back up again. The Collier and Lee MPO directors coordinated on providing the draft Scope of Services being presented in response. Logistics, finances, and apportionment would be reviewed. FDOT received a draft scope from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). The MPO was looking for the Board's guidance on how to proceed.

**Commissioner Saunders** said he did not see how Collier MPO would benefit from a merger with Lee, citing the most recent joint MPO Board meeting where a majority of the Lee MPO Board members did not attend. He added that he thought there was a very good possibility that the study would be conducted, the funds would be spent, and that ultimately, the Board would opt not to consolidate. He wondered if the funds could be spent better elsewhere. He asked that Lee and Collier MPO staff meet and assess the benefits of consolidation and report back whether Lee County MPO supports doing the study.

**Chair Kowal** concurred and said his concern would be equality of the voting and apportionment and inquired as to whether there would be a point to moving forward since the bill did not pass.

**Commissioner McDaniel** concurred with not doing the study.

**Mr. Gaither** mentioned that the Lee MPO Board had a similar response to the study, and that if the money was spent elsewhere, it would be in District 1, but not necessarily in Collier County. He asked if FDOT could be in attendance when Collier and Lee MPOs meet. .

*Commissioner Saunders moved to continue the item to the next Board meeting so that Collier MPO and Lee County MPO staff can meet with FDOT and report back on whether Lee County MPO supports having FDOT continue with the study, and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**12. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS**

**12.A. Administrative Modification to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program - Add funds for Livingston/FPL Trail**

*This item was distributed.*

**12.B. Letter of Support for Acquisition of Bonita-Estero Rail Trail (BERT) SUN Trail Application**

*This item was distributed.*

**12.C. Letter of Support for Miccosukee Tribe's Grant Application for the Snake Road Safety Improvement Project**

*This item was distributed.*

**12.D. Updated 2025 MPO Meeting Calendar**

*This item was distributed.*

**13. MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner McDaniel** requested that the Right Turn Only sign be removed at the intersection of Collier Blvd and S.R. 84, as the right lane is closed. He also asked about the status of the studies for lighting and/or signalization on S.R. 29. and C.R. 858, as well as the reflective paint that was to be installed. There have been three fatalities over the last year.

**Mr. Gaither** said that two studies had been completed, and he would send the results to **Commissioner McDaniel** and that the reflective paint had been added to the road.

**Commissioner Hall** asked what the process is to fix sinkholes on US 41.

**Mr. Gaither** said that FDOT has a drainage project moving forward for US 41. He said he was working with the City of Naples' Deputy City Engineer, Alison Bickett, and planned to attend the City of Naples City Council meeting to provide a presentation on the project. The roadbed will be replaced from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to Golden Gate Parkway.



**Commissioner Saunders** asked if there was a more immediate and temporary fix as the road is dangerous. **Mr. Gaither** said he would look into what immediate fixes could be completed and follow up with the Board.

**Council Member Barton** thanked the Commissioners for mentioning the US 41 issue as that was going to be his member comment and agreed that an immediate fix was needed. He asked Mr. Gaither to inquire what quick fix could be done when meeting with Ms. Bickett about the project.

**14. NEXT MEETING DATE**

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

**15. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, **Chair Kowal** adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:17 a.m.