

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Collier County Government Center, Administration Building (F)
IT Training Room, Fifth Floor
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL, 34112
February 18, 2024 - 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Matonti called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Miceli called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Members Present

Anthony Matonti (Chair)
Michelle Sproviero (Vice-Chair)
Andrea Halman
Joe Bonness
Kevin Dohm
Mark Komanecky
Robert Phelan
Robert Vigorito
Dayna Fendrick
Patty Huff
David Sutton

Members Absent

Al Musico

MPO Staff Present

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Sean Kingston, Principal Planner
Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

Others Present

Bonita Schwan, Councilor, City of Marco Island and MPO Board Member
Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition
Kathy Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planning (arrived during 7B)
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning
Anthony Arfuso, Capitol
Victor Nguyen, Capitol

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Matonti noted that staff had suggested the agenda be amended to move item 7A (election of Chair and Vice-Chair after item 3 (approval of the agenda)).

Mr. Dohm moved to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Ms. Fendrick. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.A. Approval of the November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Halman asked that the minutes be modified to clarify that safety concerns continue to be an issue in Immokalee.

Mr. Matonti moved to approve the November 19, 2024 minutes as modified. Seconded by Mr. Dohm. Carried unanimously.

5. Open to the Public for Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

FDOT: Ms. Merkle Tanya Merkle reported that no SUN Trail applications were received from Collier County for this cycle. Collier to Polk Trail is still underway, getting consultant teams together to start the PD&E. Signal 4 Bicycle and Pedestrian data for 2024 shows 37 serious injuries and 16 fatalities for Collier County. Safety is at the forefront, looking to any improvements already programmed to incorporate safety.

A group discussion followed regarding bicycle safety measures that FDOT, Collier County, and local municipalities are implementing; more signage, directional street paint, and education is needed for tourists who don't know the area; e-bike riders especially need education on how to ride safely; and drivers need to be more mindful of bicyclists.

Ms. Merkle said FDOT has safety programs in place to address these issues.

Ms. Huff pointed out that bicyclists should be considered when FDOT and local governments are repairing bridges

Councilor Schwan observed that the MPO Board is trying to deal with e-bikes and that it's important to communicate with bicyclists and drivers, and that educating hotel concierge staff is an important way to reach tourists. The City of Marco Island has added bollards on sidewalks and shared use paths where they intersect with roadways, as a way to make bicyclists and e-bike riders slow down and stop at stop signs. The bollards have glow-in-the-dark stripes, so they are visible at night.

B. MPO

Ms. McLaughlin mentioned the revised meeting calendar included as a distribution item in the agenda packet reflects changes to the BPAC regularly scheduled April meeting. **Mr. Kingston** described the scheduling change to accommodate the committee's joint meeting with their Lee MPO counterpart in April.

7. **Committee Action**

A. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Matonti indicated his willingness to serve as Chair for another term and noted his appreciation for the committee's hard work throughout the past year. **Ms. Sproviero**, when asked, indicated she also would be willing to serve another term as Vice-Chair.

Ms. Sproviero moved to elect Mr. Matonti as Chair. Seconded by Ms. Halman. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Fendrick moved to elect Ms. Sproviero as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Komanecy. Passed unanimously.

B. Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) – Review and Comment on the Draft Plan

Mr. Kingston said that MPO's consultant for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP), Capital Solutions, had prepared the first draft of the BPMP for the committee's review and comment and that the committee may extend the review into next month's meeting to allow sufficient time to read all of it.

Mr. Matonti suggested going around the table so each committee member could provide comments on the draft.

Ms. Fendrick commented that the section on the Everglades City Bike-Ped Master Plan needs to be examined to make corrections where needed to street names and asked whether language referring to equity will cause issues with getting the BPMP approved.

Ms. McLaughlin replied that the MPO is awaiting guidance. The plans in process now are based on current federal law, if the laws change, staff is prepared to respond by quickly modifying the plans to keep them compliant with federal law.

A group discussion followed regarding the importance of compliance and aligning the BPMP scoring matrix accordingly.

Ms. Fendrick questioned how scoring based on costs exceeding initial budgets would work, given that when the committee reviews and scores projects the only cost information available is the projects initial cost estimate.

A group discussion followed, and the recent Marco Island project involving utility relocation expenses came up.

Mr. Arfuso explained that FDOT will not fund utility and drainage costs if they exceed a certain percentage of the project as a whole.

Ms. McLaughlin noted that the cost item can be revisited so that it applies to the initial scoring exercise. When a project later comes in over budget, the MPO and FDOT would prefer to keep the project moving forward if sufficient funds are available, assuming that state and/or federal funds have already

been spent on design. The committee might want to clarify that lower cost projects should rise to the top of the ranking.

Mr. Matonti said if the cost percentage of moving utilities in a project is high, maybe it's time to rethink it.

Mr. Arfuso committed to looking at the criteria again.

Ms. McLaughlin suggested taking an existing project that was ranked by the committee previously and running it through the scoring matrix to see how well it performs, and whether the scoring criteria is having the effect the committee wants.

Mr. Phelan commented, we discussed the aspects we wanted in the plan, and they are here.

Mr. Bonness noted the Plan's cover photo is of a boardwalk at the CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Trails boardwalk and it would be a great location for a feasibility study to connect the Collier to Polk Trail to the Paradise Coast Trail and up into Lee County.

Mr. Vigorito – no comments.

Ms. Sproviero based on low attendance at the BPMP public meetings so far, what can be done to get more outreach to the public? Marco Island has been successful reaching out at farmers markets.

Ms. McLaughlin noted ongoing efforts including upcoming participation at the Golden Gate Community Market and the Cattle Drive Jamboree event in Immokalee.

Mr. Matonti observed that people come out to events when a project negatively affects them.

Ms. Sproviero concurred with the need to rethink the scoring matrix and weight percentages more safety education and outreach, include HOAs.

Ms. Huff, regarding the table on p. 9, the data for Everglades City and Chokoloskee are wrong. There is no transit to Everglades City and the majority of residents bike and walk. The income ranges are too high; the Harry Chapin Food Pantry serves about 100 people (25% of the population) a week who qualify for services; and a high percentage of elementary students qualify for free lunches.

Ms. Halman the income ranges are too high for Immokalee as well.

Mr. Arfuso made a commitment to review the socioeconomic data again.

Mr. Komanecky agreed that the data does not look correct and that there may be missing data due to small population size. Would like to see graphics added for key data so most important elements are well communicated. Otherwise, it's a good start.

Mr. Arfuso confirmed that graphics and photos were to be added after the text is substantially completed and approved by the committee.

Mr. Dohm clarified that a shared use path shown as scheduled for construction in 2024 on the Marco Island map has been completed and the map should be updated.

Mr. Arfuso will ask the City to provide an updated map if one is available.

Ms. Halman stated, there is no safe place to ride on Immokalee Road.

Ms. McLaughlin when the Immokalee Loop Rd is completed it should alleviate traffic on Immokalee Rd and provide an opportunity to add more bicycle facilities there.

Ms. Halman responded the Loop Road won't reduce traffic because the casino is there.

Ms. McLaughlin we can add safe bike facilities on Immokalee rd. as a priority in the plan.

Ms. Halman noted this would be her last meeting. She is retiring from BPAC and other committee responsibilities.

Mr. Arfuso asked committee members to send in their comments and noted public comments are still accepted on the MPO's website.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Member Comments

Ms. Huff, the Trail Town designation gives Everglades City attention as demonstrated by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council coming to Everglades City April 10 and 11, 2025. Conference topics include bike-ped projects approved by the MPO Board. This coming Friday at 1pm there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the Bank of the Everglades renovation by the Historical Society.

Mr. Dohm mentioned that the Trail Town organizers are coming to Marco Island to advise the city.

Ms. Avola-Brown mentioned the Naples Pathway Coalition's annual bike and pedestrian walk/run event is coming up.

10. Distribution Items

- A. Letter of Support for BERT SUN Trail Application
- B. Updated 2025 MPO Meeting Calendar.

11. Topics for Next Meeting

Continuation of review of BPMP.

12. Next Meeting Date

March 18, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. Location: Collier County Government Center, Admin. Bldg. F, IT Training Room, 5th Floor, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, 34112

13. **Adjournment**

Mr. Matonti adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.