

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Middelstaedt called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

CAC Members Present

Elaine Middelstaedt
Karen Homiak, *Chair*
Fred Sasser, *Vice-Chair*
Michelle Arnold
Misty Phillips

CAC Members Absent

Neal Gelfand
Josh Rincon
Dennis DiDonna
Dennis Stalzer

MPO Staff

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

Others Present

Marcellus Evans, FDOT Community Liaison
Matt Dockins, FDOT, consultant
Steven Andrews, FDOT Project Manager
Michael Tisch, Collier County Transportation Engineering

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Sasser moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Phillips seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of the November 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Homiak moved to approve the November 25, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Sasser seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. **Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda**

None.

6. **Agency Updates**

A. FDOT

None.

B. MPO Executive Director

None.

7. **Committee Action**

A. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2025

Ms. Arnold moved to nominate Ms. Homiak to serve as Chair. Mr. Sasser seconded. Ms. Homiak accepted. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Sasser offered to serve as Vice-Chair.

Ms. Arnold moved to nominate Mr. Sasser to serve as Vice-Chair. Ms. Homiak seconded. Carried unanimously.

B. Endorse Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Target Zero Safety Performance Targets for Calendar Year 2025

Ms. McLaughlin said that safety targets are the only federal Transportation Performance Measure that must be adopted annually. FDOT establishes the State's safety targets in the Highway Safety Improvement Plan. FDOT is maintaining its Target Zero safety performance targets for 2025: zero fatalities and zero serious injuries on Florida roadways.

MPOs have the option to either adopt the Statewide safety targets or establish their own quantifiable safety targets. Collier MPO has consistently elected to adopt the FDOT statewide targets.

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the targets and published safety statistics (which can be viewed in the January 27, 2025 CAC Agenda) and mentioned that the data in the agenda packet is from the FDOT sourcebook, viewable online which might have already become outdated, but that there is an FDOT online data source [Signal 4] which shows the most current information, but has not been reviewed and vetted yet.

Ms. Middelstaedt moved to endorse Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Target Zero Safety Performance Targets for Calendar Year 2025. Ms. Arnold seconded. Carried unanimously.

Ms. Arnold said communities need to make safety targets a priority for it to make a difference.

Ms. Phillips said there is not enough public outreach; that safety takes a backseat to tourism regarding outreach. As a blind person, she does not feel safe using the crosswalks because of distracted driving. She would like to walk more but is afraid.

C. Endorse an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and Authorizing Resolution – Capital for Paratransit

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

Ms. Middelstaedt moved to endorse an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and Authorizing Resolution – Capital for Paratransit. Ms. Phillips seconded. Carried unanimously.

D. Endorse Scope of Services for Joint Lee/Collier Regional Congestion Management Process Element

Ms. McLaughlin said that the Collier and Lee MPOs made a commitment to work on a regional planning element in light of discussions in the state legislature regarding a Collier-Lee consolidation feasibility study. To honor that commitment, they would develop a joint Regional Congestion Management Process (CMP) Element to add to their individual Congestion Management Process plans and thusly to the Long Range Transportation Plan. The joint CMP addresses the regional road network and brings the regional roadway network map up to date. The 2020 census saw that the urbanized area population had grown up to Alico Rd in Lee County. The most impacted areas have been the connections between Alico and Immokalee Rd.

Lee MPO Executive Director, Don Scott prepared the scope with input from Collier staff. The approximate cost is \$120,000 for Lee MPO and \$68,000 for Collier MPO.

Mr. Sasser moved to endorse Scope of Services for Joint Lee/Collier Regional Congestion Management Process Element. Ms. Middelstaedt seconded. Carried unanimously.

E. Review and Provide Input on the Lee and Collier MPO Consolidation Feasibility Study Draft Scope of Services

Ms. McLaughlin said that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) reached out to the Lee and Collier MPOs for input regarding the draft Scope of Services for the Lee and Collier MPO Consolidation Feasibility Study and that FDOT is funding and administering the study, which is budgeted at \$250,000. She said FDOT would initiate the process, and the item was being presented for Committee member comments.

A group discussion followed, regarding past Board and Committee joint meetings where Collier MPO members were vastly outnumbered by Lee members and that in the study, an apportionment plan to make sure Collier gets equal votes would be an important factor, as well as how the financial and operational differences between the two MPOs would be addressed.

This item was presented for review and comment only.

8 Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. FDOT Presentation on Old 41 Project Development & Environment Study (PD&E)

Mr. Dockins provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the January 27, 2025 CAC Agenda), saying the presentation was being provided to get community input. There are drainage and floodplain considerations for the three miles of Old 41 from Wiggins Pass to Bonita Beach Rd. Project goals are to relieve congestion and meet the travel needs of the growing population, a desire to improve safety by adding sidewalks, bike lanes, and shared-use paths, and floodplain compensation due to official stormwater rules that would change in June 2026, in which the requirements for ponds will triple in size.

B. FHWA/FTA Collier MPO TMA 2024 Certification Review Report

Ms. McLaughlin thanked everyone who took part in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s TMA Certification site visit to the MPO.

Noteworthy reviews were the regional coordination of the Collier-Lee Regional Transit Service and Fare Study, as well as a transit bus was converted into a mass ambulance. FHWA and FTA were impressed with the teamwork between the County and the local municipalities, how well-integrated Collier MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP), Transit Development Plan (TDP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) were, and the informational video produced in-house by Collier MPO and Collier County Communications. She thanked everyone who participated in the video. The recommendation given was that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) table in the Long Range Transportation Plan display totals at the bottom of the page. She said the TMA Certification is good until 2028.

C. Status Report on 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Ms. McLaughlin gave a status report on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (which can be viewed in the January 27, 2025 CAC Agenda).

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the report and maps, noting that the consultant, Jacobs Engineering, pointed out that the model is just one tool. The Needs Plan also identifies projects based on community input. She would be presenting the status report to the Cities of Marco Island and Everglades City Councils and had recently presented the status report to the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes. MPO staff presented to the Immokalee and Bayshore Community Redevelopment Agencies. The goal was to get the word out in the community to encourage public participation in the development of the plan.

9 Member Comments

Mr. Sasser said he had heard that FDOT would be working on a drainage project on US 41 to update sewers, which would be potentially affect the road on Golden Gate to 5th Ave South in downtown Naples and asked for the status of the project. **Mr. Evans** said he would look into the matter.

Ms. Phillips announced that the Lighthouse of Collier for Blindness & Vision Loss was holding an open house on February 28, 2025.

10 Distribution Items

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

The item was distributed.

B. Administrative Modification #4 to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program -Add funds for Livingston FPL Trail

The item was distributed.

11. Next Meeting Date

February 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg., South Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Homiak adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.