

**MEETING MINUTES
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD
FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**Collier County Government Center
Admin Building F, IT Training Room, 5th Floor
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112
March 4, 2026 | Following 1:30 p.m. Annual Public Workshop**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pernas called the meeting to order at approximately 2:51 p.m.

A. Roll Call

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

Members Present

Tony Pernas, MPO Board Member, Everglades City, *Chair*
Brett Nelson, Children at Risk
Charles Lascari, Rep. Disabled, *Vice-Chair starting at item 5.A.*
Patti Warren, Fla. Dept. of Edu./Div. of Vocational Rehab Services
Sarah Gualco, Area Agency on Aging SWFL-FL Dept. of Elder Affairs
Victoria Upthegrove, Florida Dept. of Transportation

Members Absent

Carmen Henry, Southwest Florida Regional Workforce Development Board, *Vice-Chair until item 5.A.*
Cheryl Burnham, Florida Association for Community Action
Idela Hernandez, Rep. Citizens Advocate/User or Non-User
John Lambcke, Collier Schools Transportation Director
Julia Manning, Local Medical Community
Michael Stahler, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Leah Watson, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Oscar Gomez, Veterans Services
Tabitha Larrauri, Fla. Dept. of Children and Family Services

MPO Staff

Carmen Monroy, Executive Director
Sean Kingston, Planner III
Dusty Hansen, Planner II
Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

Others Present

Omar De Leon, Public Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit

Mari Maldonado, Paratransit Manager, Collier Area Transit
Elena Ortiz Rosado, Collier County Manager Office
Yash Nagal, Benesch
Fred Saunders, Public
Pauline Gaynair, Public
Paula Leighton, Public

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pernas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Uptegrove moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Lascari seconded. Passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Uptegrove moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2025. Mr. Nelson seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. BOARD ACTION

A. Elect LCB Vice-Chair

Mr. Lascari volunteered to serve as LCB Vice Chair for 2026.

Mr. Warren moved to approve Mr. Lascari as LCB Vice Chair for 2026. Ms. Gualco seconded. Passed unanimously.

B. Review and Approve Proposed Rate Model for FY 2026/2027

Mr. Kingston requested approval of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026–27 Rate Model, which establishes the annual unsubsidized per-trip rates for inclusion in the FY 2026–27 Trip and Equipment Grant. The model incorporates budgeted revenues, operating expenses, and the corresponding level of service to be provided. These elements are integrated into a comprehensive Rate Model to ensure equitable rates for Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) trips delivered by the CTC.

A discussion noted that per-trip rates are lower due to additional federal grant funding, the fixed

TRIP equipment obligation, and the County covering the remaining cost of each trip.

Ms. Gualco moved to approve the Proposed Rate Model for FY 2026/2027. Ms. Upthegrove seconded. Passed unanimously.

6. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Collier Area Transit Fare Study

Mr. Nagal provided a presentation on the transit fare study conducted by Collier Area Transit, which can be viewed in the March 4, 2026 LCB Regular Meeting Agenda. The study reviews current fare programs and evaluates their financial and equity impacts to balance revenue needs with community access. It also addresses the Transit Development Plan recommendation by assessing the structure, sustainability, and long-term performance of the agency's fare system.

B. CTC Quarterly Progress Report

Mr. De Leon reviewed the CTC Quarterly Progress Report which can be viewed in the March 4, 2026 LCB regular Meeting Agenda.

C. MPO Quarterly Progress Report

Mr. Kingston reviewed the MPO Quarterly Progress Report which can be viewed in the March 4, 2026 LCB regular Meeting Agenda.

D. FDOT Report

Ms. Upthegrove said FDOT received forty grant applications, including from Collier Area Transit (CAT), Easter Seals of Naples, and Sunrise Community of Southwest Florida which were in review.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Lascari said

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

May 6, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., Annual Public Workshop, Regular Meeting to immediately follow, Collier County Government Center, County Administration Bldg. F, IT Training Room, 5th Floor, 3299 Tamiami Trail E., Naples, FL 34112.

11. ADJOURNMENT

*No further business being conducted, **Chair Pernas** adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.*