

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Board of County Commission Chambers
Collier County Government Center
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor
Naples, FL 34112
October 10, 2025 | 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*
Council Member Tony Pernas, *Vice-Chair*
Commissioner Burt L. Saunders
Commissioner Chris Hall
Commissioner Rick LoCastro
Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr.,
Council Member Linda Penniman
Council Member Berne Barton
Council Member Bonita Schwan

Members Absent

None

MPO Staff

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

FDOT

Wayne Gaither, Director, District 1 Southwest Area Office
Marcellus Evans, District 1 Community Liaison
Jason Heironimus, Public Information Officer

Others Present

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney

Trinity Scott, Collier County Transportation Mgmt. Services Department Head

Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning, Planning Manager

Omar De Leon, Collier Area Transit, Transit Manager,

Sonal Dodia, Jacobs Engineering

Carmen Monroy, for Stantec Consulting

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Kowal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CONSENT ITEMS

4.A. Approval of September 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

4.B. Approve Administrative Change Order 1 for TY Lin International for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

4.C. Approve Amendment 7 to Public Transit Grant Agreement G1V40

4.D. Approve Amendments 4 and 5 to Public Transit Grant Agreement G2594

Commissioner Saunders moved to approve the agenda, previous minutes and consent items and Council Member Penniman seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

6. AGENCY UPDATES

6.A. FDOT

Mr. Evans said several public meetings were scheduled. For the US-41 project, from north of Old US 41 to south of Gulf Park Drive, an in-person open house was set for Monday, October 21st at the Courtyard by Marriott Naples, followed by a virtual meeting on Wednesday, October 23rd, via Zoom. The Livingston Trail Extension PD&E Study, covering the area from Radio Road to the Collier County Line, was scheduled for Tuesday, November 19th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on GoToWebinar. The Old 41 PD&E Study hearing was announced as a hybrid meeting to be held on Thursday, November 20th, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Additional details were available on the Southwest Florida Roads website. **Mr. Evans** also provided an update on the I-75/951 interchange, noting that the widening for the southbound I-75 had begun and the project remained on schedule and was progressing as planned.

Commissioner Hall asked if there was a status update on a median project near US 41 and Gulf Park.

Mr. Gaither said he would look into it and follow up with **Commissioner Hall**.

6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. McLaughlin mentioned that the County's ITS project for vehicle count stations came in under budget due to improved technology, allowing for the installation of approximately 12 additional stations at no extra cost. She reminded attendees that the posting for her position was scheduled to close on Thursday, October 16th, and application updates would be provided at the next meeting. She also noted that the artwork displayed at the back of the room was hers; part of her retirement plans to pursue art, and expressed appreciation for the County's support in allowing use of space.

7. CHAIR REPORTS

7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.C. BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE (BPAC)

7.C.1. Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)

7.D.1. Congestion Management Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)

None.

9. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)

9.A. Review, Comment on, and Accept the Transit Development Plan, Major Update, for 2026-2035

Ms. Hansen said that transit agencies receiving Transit State Block Grant Funds, such as Collier Area Transit (CAT), are required to update their Transit Development Plan (TDP) every five years, with the next major update due to FDOT by March 2026. The MPO, in partnership with CAT, retained Stantec Consulting to assist with the plan's development. Staff requested Board members review and comment on the draft TDP, noting that minor feedback from committees and planning agencies is being incorporated, with a summary of those revisions provided in the agenda packet. Since the MPO funded the TDP, staff asked the Board to accept the draft so it can proceed to a public comment period and ultimately be presented to the Collier Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval in December.

Ms. Monroy provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the October 10, 2025 MPO Agenda), noting it had been reviewed by various committees, with comments from those groups, the Board, and FDOT to be incorporated into the final version. Stantec's analysis highlighted significant travel between Lee and Collier counties. Key recommendations included maintaining and enhancing the current system, expanding service to meet community needs, and introducing new routes in underserved areas. The system shows high vehicle utilization, lower-than-average operating costs (but costs are rising), rising ridership, and a 33% increase in paratransit trips, reflecting both population growth and an aging demographic.

Commissioner McDaniel questioned the rationale behind designating University of Florida/IFAS as a route name, since the route identified in the Regional Transit Service and Fare Study suggested connecting transfer station to transfer station and requested that it be addressed in the final proposed TDP to be presented to Collier BCC in December..

A group discussion followed, regarding the potential impact of micromobility and microtransit on CAT's system, especially in bridging first-mile/last-mile gaps. **Council Member Penniman** asked about bus capacity and whether smaller buses could be used when a large capacity is not needed. **Mr. De Leon** responded that in regard to bus capacity and fleet sizing, vehicle sizes for routes are selected based on evaluation of peak ridership data, operational efficiency, and durability. CAT continually monitors bus capacity on routes to ensure that the appropriate vehicles are assigned to routes. **Ms. Monroy** added that peer comparisons showed CAT has high vehicle utilization despite a smaller fleet, largely due to its concentration in dense urban areas.

***Chair Kowal** moved to accept the Transit Development Plan, Major Update, for 2026-2035 and **Vice-Chair Pernas** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

9.B. Accept the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Evaluation Matrix/Project Needs List Ranking and Cost Feasible Projects List

Ms. McLaughlin said that the purpose of the agenda item was to request acceptance of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Evaluation Matrix and the Cost Feasible Project List. She noted that these

materials had been presented at the previous meeting and had since received endorsements from both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). No changes had been made to the documents since the Board last reviewed them. The full draft of the plan would be brought forward for Board review in November.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to accept the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Evaluation Matrix/Project Needs List Ranking and Cost Feasible Projects List and **Commissioner Saunders** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

9.C. Approve the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and Resolution 2025-12

Ms. McLaughlin said staff was requesting Board approval of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) and its accompanying resolution, reaffirming a commitment to Target Zero in alignment with FDOT. The plan was developed with consultant TY Lin with extensive public input and guidance from the Steering Committee. Funded by a \$200,000 grant from the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program along with \$40,000 in matching funds from Collier County and \$10,000 in MPO local funds, the plan focuses on reducing fatalities and serious injuries and will be incorporated into the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. It has received endorsements from the TAC and CAC. Minor language updates would be made to address comments made by FDOT before submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and Resolution 2025-12, and **Council Member Schwan** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

9.D. Approve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Mr. Kingston said that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP), presented to the Board in September, is updated every five years as part of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, to fulfill a key multimodal component of the plan. The BPMP was developed with Capital Consulting Solutions in collaboration with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), over a period of two years, with substantial public input and detailed analysis. It includes chapters on existing conditions, crash and safety data, design guidelines, and implementation strategies, with a strong emphasis on safety and alignment with the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). Following the last Board meeting, the draft plan was endorsed by the BPAC, TAC, and CAC, with minor revisions. The plan was also presented to the Congestion Management Committee.

***Council Member Schwan** moved to approve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and **Council Member Penniman** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

10. PRESENTATIONS (MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION)

None.

11. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

11.A. Administrative Modification #1 to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Adding Updated Transit Safety Targets

Item distributed.

11.B. Collier MPO 2025 Annual Report

Item distributed.

11.B. Administrative Modification 1 to Collier MPO's Third Amended FY 24/25-25/26 Unified Planning Work Program

Item distributed.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hall asked whether the Board would be interested in pursuing a resolution to designate as commemorative a portion of roadway as Charlie Kirk Memorial Highway, noting that Lake County had already done so. He explained that the process is simple and would not require address changes, with signage placed at the beginning of the selected route. He suggested a segment starting at Immokalee Road or U.S. 41, extending to Collier Boulevard, and emphasized that the proposal was optional, and he was attempting to gauge interest. He added that **Ms. Scott** would be able to explain the procedural steps if needed.

Ms. Scott said that **Commissioner Hall's** proposal involves designating a Commemorative Memorial Highway, which does not require changing road names or addresses. If the roadway is State maintained, such as U.S. 41, the process would require action by the State Legislature along with a supporting resolution from the local agency. For County maintained roads, the designation could be made through a BCC resolution. The designation would be marked with cultural signs placed at each end of the corridor.

A group discussion followed, regarding the possibility of naming a roadway in honor of an individual, referencing potential legislation in Tallahassee that would allow state colleges to name streets. U.S. 41 requires legislative action, while county-maintained roads could be designated through a resolution by the Collier BCC. It was agreed that such a designation on a County road fall under the County's authority, not the MPO, and that an acknowledgment from the MPO Board would be sufficient to move the idea forward at a BCC meeting.

Commissioner McDaniel asked for an update on the lighting improvements at the intersection of Oil Well Road and SR 29, emphasizing the growing traffic and safety concerns in the area. He noted that increased activity, including new mining operations and traffic shifts from Ave Maria, make it critical to prioritize safety improvements, highlighting the long-overdue need for improvements. He also mentioned the need for the widening of SR 29 from Immokalee south to I-75.

Mr. Gaither confirmed that a lighting justification report for the intersection of SR 29 and Oil Well Rd has been completed. Funding may be programmed for 2027, but he would verify and follow up. A signal study was underway, and while a roundabout was considered, Right-of-Way limitations and nearby utilities and canal constraints are causing challenges. There had been discussions with County staff regarding new development and assessing future roadway safety improvement possibilities. More information could be provided at the next Board meeting. Regarding the widening of SR 29, plans exist but are not yet in the Work Program. Current safety measures include rumble strips, solar-powered flashing stop signs, and caution lights, with both State and County efforts believed to have reached their current limits until the ROW issues can be addressed.

Commissioner McDaniel responded that he wants efforts to be accelerated to complete the long-overdue lighting improvements, stressing that studies and safety goals mean little without action, especially after two fatalities occurred there last year. He emphasized that funding delays are unacceptable for such a critical safety need and urged identifying costs and exploring ways to advance the project. He also highlighted the urgency brought on by regional growth, wildlife corridor investments, high panther fatality rates near Immokalee, and water conveyance challenges from the Okaloacoochee Slough, calling for the area to be treated as a top priority.

Council Member, Schwan said Marco Island was officially designated a Florida Trail Town on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, following ten months of work and a site visit by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Greenways and Trails Council. Everglades City had previously received the same designation. The Council reviewed Marco Island's bike paths, lanes, kayaking spots, and walking trails. She noted that Trail Towns see strong local use and that 70-91% of users are local residents; and they generate millions of dollars in economic impact.

Chair Kowal asked the Board to take a moment of silence to remember Commissioner Michael Greenwell, who passed away the previous afternoon. He noted that Commissioner Greenwell was a member of the neighboring Lee MPO, and had participated in joint sessions with the Collier MPO Board in the past.

There was a moment of silence.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

14. ADJOURN

*There being no further business, **Chair Kowal** adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:18 a.m.*