

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

1. Call to Order

Ms. Homiak called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

CAC Members Present

Karen Homiak, *Chair*

Fred Sasser, *Vice Chair*

Becky Irwin.

Dennis DiDonna

Harry Henkel

Josh Rincon

Kevin Dohm

Michelle Arnold

Misty Phillips

Neal Gelfand

CAC Members Absent

None

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Planner III

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

Others Present

Marcellus Evans, FDOT

Adam Rose, FDOT Project Manager

Linda Hess, WGI, PD&E Project Manager for FDOT

Sonal Dodia, Jacobs Engineering

Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning

Kathy Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planning

Others Present via Zoom

Colleen Ross, Jacobs Engineering

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Dohm moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Sasser seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of the September 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Henkel moved to approve the September 22, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Dohm seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. **Agency Updates**

A. FDOT

Mr. Evans announced a public hearing for the Old US 41 Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) study on November 20, 2025. More information could be found on the SWFL Roads website.

B. MPO

None.

7. **Committee Action**

A. Endorse an Amendment to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program – two new transit projects for operating assistance and capital to purchase vehicles/equipment and add the Railroad & Utilities phases to two existing roadway projects.

Mr. Kingston said FDOT requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the addition of the following projects: the Railroad & Utility (RRU) phase to a resurfacing project at US 41 from N of Old US 41 to S of Gulf Park Dr, the RRU phase to an intersection improvement project at US 41 and Golden Gate Pkwy, a new transit project to purchase vehicles/equipment for rural bus and facilities, and a new transit project for operating assistance.

Mr. Dohm moved to endorse an Amendment to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program – two new transit projects for operating assistance and capital to purchase vehicles/equipment and add the Railroad & Utilities phases to two existing roadway projects. Mr. Gelfand seconded. Carried unanimously.

B. Review and Comment on Chapters 4, 6 and 7 of the 2050 Long Range Transportation

Plan

Ms. McLaughlin said she was asking the Committee to review and comment on three major chapters of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Chapter 4 covers the 2050 Needs Plan, Chapter 6 covers the 2050 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan, and Chapter 7 covers Implementation. The Committee had seen the Needs and Cost Feasible Plans as a list of projects and costs; they now include material drawn from the three plans approved or accepted by the MPO Board on October 10th: the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Transit Development Plan, and Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Both chapters also include information from the FDOT District 1 Freight Plan, airport master plans, and the Collier MPO's 2022 Congestion Management Process.

Ms. Dodia provided a presentation which can be viewed in the October 27, 2025 TAC Agenda.

The next steps are to bring a complete draft of the 2050 LRTP to the MPO Board for preliminary review and to TAC and CAC for endorsement in November, followed by MPO Board approval on December 11, 2025.

A group discussion followed, prompted by a question regarding the existence of a County Thoroughfare Corridor Protection Plan Ordinance. Reference was made to Policy 3.5 of the Growth Management Plan, and whether corridor protection regulations are already in place. County staff noted that the Commissioners are attentive to securing (Right of Way) ROW during planning efforts, and any road listed in the LRTP is subject to efforts aimed at reserving ROW as projects move forward.

Long-term traffic concerns were discussed, including whether a bypass would be necessary by the year 2049 to alleviate congestion. Alternate regional corridors were tested during the modeling process to address congestion on Immokalee Road, but were ultimately deemed not cost feasible. The planning process is constrained by the D1RPM traffic model. Some traffic challenges may only be resolved through major impacts to surrounding communities. A parallel facility near the Gordon River Bridge at Tin City was mentioned, though a proposal involving North Road did not materialize. **Mr. Rincon** asked about the type of intersection planned for SR 82 and Corkscrew Rd. **Ms. McLaughlin** said she would follow up with a response at the next meeting.

This item was presented for review and comment only.

C. Review and Comment on FDOT's Draft Tentative Work Program for FY2027-31

Ms. McLaughlin said that FDOT had released their Draft Tentative Work Program (DTWP) for FY2027-31, along with a spreadsheet listing projects and a Summary of Changes. FDOT's public hearings took place from October 20 – 24, 2025 and included in-person meetings and individual appointments in the Bartow and Fort Myers offices, and a self-guided online meeting. She mentioned that the County had raised questions about certain projects which would be addressed. The DTWP will go to the State Legislature and FDOT will continue to take comments.

This item was presented for review and comment only.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. FDOT Presentation on Livingston FPL Trail Extension PD&E Study

Mr. Kingston said that over the summer, FDOT launched a Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) study to determine the location and conceptual design of a Livingston FPL shared use path trail from Radio Road to the Collier County line.

Ms. Hess and **Mr. Rose** provided a presentation which can be viewed in the October 27, 2025 TAC Agenda, regarding an 11.5 mile shared-use path project that would connect the Bonita-Estero Rail Trail (BERT) and North Regional Park, provide more micromobility options and support the SUNTrail and the Gulf Coast Trail. Two possible alignments were presented, one along Livingston Rd and the other within the FPL easement. A public workshop is scheduled for November 18th and 19th, and a public hearing in summer 2026. Only the PD&E is currently funded and the design phase must be funded for the PD&E to move forward.

A group discussion followed, and the question was raised whether people would want to travel by bike alongside power lines. It was mentioned that users do enjoy the Rich King Greenway corridor, which runs along power lines and sees regular use. FDOT has a bike and pedestrian count station there, recording approximately 200 users per day, with numbers rising to around 400 daily during peak season which suggests the corridor is frequently used and valued by the community. **Mr. Dohm** mentioned that there are bike and pedestrian paths along power lines in Chicago and are reportedly very popular.

Concerns about the financial scale of the proposed project, particularly in light of the absence of an alternative route were expressed. It was noted that alternative options would be explored through the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) process, including the possibility of a no-build scenario. The need for an east-west trail was also discussed.

B. Report on Collier and Lee MPO Consolidation Feasibility Study

Ms. McLaughlin said FDOT contracted with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), at the University of South Florida to conduct the first phase of a Feasibility Study to evaluate the potential consolidation of Collier and Lee MPOs. The draft Tech Memo in the agenda packet provides a summary of “Current Local and Regional MPO Planning and Business Practices.”

A second draft Tech Memo summarizes federal and state regulations regarding MPO designation and redesignation, and a third draft briefing document highlights key facts for decision makers. CUTR has begun developing a draft survey to distribute to the Lee and Collier MPO Boards after they are briefed in November.

Mr. DiDonna asked if tolling a road to pay for a bypass/alternate route had been considered.

Ms. McLaughlin said it was her understanding that tolling one road to pay for another road is not allowed under state regulations.

9. Member Comments

Ms. Arnold asked if there were any applicants for the Collier MPO Executive Director position.

Ms. McLaughlin said there were four at the time and the job posting had been extended by two weeks to attract more applicants.

A group discussion followed, and it was noted that under the law, a consolidated MPO grants voting rights to the two counties and to the largest municipality within each Urbanized Area (UZA). Collier County is part of the Bonita Springs–Estero UZA, where the largest municipality is Estero in Lee County. The other Urbanized Area is the Cape Coral–Fort Myers UZA, with Cape Coral as its largest municipality, also in Lee County.

Distribution Items

**A. Administrative Modification 1 to Collier MPO’s Third Amended FY 24/25-25/26
Unified Planning Work Program**

This item was distributed.

B. Administrative Modification #2 to the FY26-30 Transportation Improvement Program

This item was distributed.

11. Next Meeting Date

November 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 3:35 p.m.