

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

CAC Members Present

Elaine Middelstaedt, Chair
Karen Homiak
Misty Phillips
Michelle Arnold
Dennis DiDonna
Dennis Stalzer

CAC Members Absent

Neal Gelfand, Vice-Chair
Fred Sasser
Josh Rincon

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner
Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Others Present

Lorraine Lantz, Manager, Collier County Transportation Planning
Kathy Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planner
Tristan Dasari, Intern with Collier County Transportation Management Services Department
Carmen Maldonado, FDOT
Marcellus Evans, FDOT

Others Present (Via Zoom)

Stacey Meekins, TYLin
Kelly McGuinness, TYLin

3. Approval of the Agenda

A walk-on item was added to the agenda: 7.C. Endorse an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Authorizing Resolution – Operational and Capital Funding for Easter Seals Transit Projects.

Ms. Arnold moved to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Homiak seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the September 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Homiak moved to approve the September 23, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Stalzer seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. Maldonado introduced **Mr. Evans** as the new FDOT liaison to the Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees.

B. MPO Executive Director

None.

7. Committee Action

A. Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan: Presentation, Review and Comment on Draft Existing Conditions & Safety Analysis Memo

Mr. Kingston said that the item was an introduction to Collier MPO’s Safety Action Plan (SAP) and an opportunity to provide comments, and introduced MPO consultant, TYLin staff, **Ms. McGuinness** and **Ms. Meekins**.

Ms. McGuinness provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the October 28, 2024 CAC Agenda.)

A group discussion followed, regarding expediting safety deficient areas and “Quick Bill” treatments for the advancement of safety improvements, the inclusion of signalization, signage, and education in safety measures, how to keep up with the abundance of land development in the region, the need for more sidewalks, and safety project prioritization.

Ms. McLaughlin mentioned the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan virtual public workshop scheduled for October 30, 2024.

Item presented for review.

B. Endorse the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Revised Draft Chapter 3: Planning Context & Decision-Making Framework

Ms. McLaughlin said that at the September CAC meeting, the MPO had just received several comments on Chapter 3 from FDOT Multimodal Office and Design Studio, and thusly, CAC approved Chapter 1 and the Public Participation Plan elements of the LRTP, but deferred action on Chapter 3 to give staff time to respond to FDOT's recent comments. The MPO and Jacobs Engineering proposed revisions to Chapter 3 in response to FDOT's comments and received FDOT's concurrence on the revisions. Collier MPO would be meeting with FDOT for further discussion scheduled for December 6, 2024 (the discussion had been delayed to December due to impacts from Hurricane Milton). Once endorsement by the Technical and Citizen Advisory Committees was achieved, Chapter 3 would be presented to the MPO Board in November for approval.

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the comments and revisions (which can be viewed in the October 28, 2024 CAC Agenda).

A group discussion followed, regarding how the LRTP takes guidance from regional demographics as well as the Collier County Interactive Growth Model, that the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study element in connection with Lee County should remain in the plan, and that more transit routes between areas within the region are needed. Some members expressed the opinion that the plan should encompass a more comprehensive solution to traffic congestion and include sidewalks, bike paths, and multimodal transportation projects.

Ms. McLaughlin said she would look into keeping the Collier-Lee Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study element in the LRTP, but that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, which was being updated, is an effective resource for sidewalk, bike path, and multimodal transportation projects.

Ms. Arnold moved to endorse the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Revised Draft Chapter 3: Planning Context & Decision-Making Framework with the condition that the Collier-Lee Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study element remain in the plan and for the plan to encompass a more comprehensive solution to traffic congestion and include sidewalk, bike path, and multimodal transportation projects, and Ms. Phillips seconded. Ms. Homiak, Ms. Middelstaedt, and Mr. DiDonna opposed said conditions. Motion failed.

Ms. Middelstaedt introduced another motion to endorse the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Revised Draft Chapter 3: Planning Context & Decision-Making Framework without conditions.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Revised Draft Chapter 3: Planning Context & Decision-Making Framework with the condition that the Collier-Lee Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study element remain in the plan, and *Mr. Stalzer* seconded. *Ms. Arnold* and *Mr. DiDonna*, dissented. Motion carried.

C. Endorse an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Authorizing Resolution – Operational and Capital Funding for Easter Seals Transit Projects.

Mr. Kingston said that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had requested that Collier MPO amend its FY25-29 TIP to add two transit projects covering costs for operating expenses and capital funds for van purchase and expansion for the Easter Seals transit program. This was a walk-on item to the agenda.

Ms. Hansen mentioned that FDOT reached out to MPO after the CAC agenda packet was published to prepare the TIP Amendment. Easter Seals is an organization that provides programs and services to the disabled. Section 5310 is a Federal Transit Administration grant which passes through FDOT, providing transportation assistance grant funding to support disabled and transportation disadvantaged in the community, and this grant would fund new and replacement bus equipment.

Ms. Arnold moved to endorse the Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Authorizing Resolution – Operational and Capital Funding for Easter Seals Transit Projects and *Ms. Homiak* seconded. Carried unanimously.

8 Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. Update on 2050 LRTP Existing Plus Committed (E+C) Model Run

Ms. McLaughlin said this item was included in the packet for the Committee to keep apprised of the development of the 2050 LRTP. FDOT produced an initial E+C deficiency analysis which showed the road network operating better than expected. Jacobs analyzed the data and found that in the socio-economic projections through 2050, employment had been underreported by Metro Forecasting Models which affected the accuracy of the models. Upon notice of the data discrepancy, Metro Forecasting Models submitted revised employment projections. FDOT reran the model with the new data and the updated model was posted on the website. She said MPO staff would continue to provide updates on the 2050 LRTP.

B. Current Status and Opportunities to Participate in the Development of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Mr. Kingston said the MPO's consultant, Capital Consulting Solutions, was assisting in the development of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update (BPMP), expected to be completed in June 2025. The BPMP would serve as Collier County's guiding document for project prioritization of multimodal transportation and pathway facilities. An interactive map had been created, which combines existing and programmed facilities with the results of recently distributed public surveys. The Collier MPO

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee provided comments, bicycle and pedestrian transportation plans of various regions throughout Florida were studied, and Capital prepared drafts for BPMP project prioritization. He said there would be a virtual public workshop for the BPMP on October 29, 2024.

Mr. Kingston reviewed the proposed BPMP updates (which can be viewed in the October 28, 2024 CAC Agenda).

9 Member Comments

Mr. DiDonna asked **Mr. Evans** if FDOT had made any progress on Old 41, between U.S. 41 and Bonita Beach Rd, and that he thought that a public meeting for the project was supposed to be scheduled in October 2024, but that a public meeting had not occurred.

Mr. Evans said he would look into it and follow up with **Mr. DiDonna**.

Mr. DiDonna also mentioned that in the Collier region, there are no East-West bike paths for bicyclists to ride to the beach, or continuous sidewalks, and that he was hoping to see more progress for multimodal transportation.

10 Distribution Items

A. Administrative Modification #2 to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (County Barn Road Bike/Ped, Marco Island Collier Alternate Bike Lane, and Capital & Operating Assistance Transit projects)

The item was distributed.

11. Next Meeting Date

November 25, 2024, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. Main Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Middelstaedt adjourned the meeting at 3.36 p.m.