

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the  
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 22, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

**Ms. Homiak** 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**

Karen Homiak, *Chair*

Kevin Dohm

Michelle Arnold

Becky Irwin (*arrived at item 7.B.*)

Neal Gelfand

Harry Henkel

**CAC Members Absent**

Fred Sasser, *Vice Chair*

Dennis DiDonna

Josh Rincon

Misty Phillips

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Planner III

Dusty Hansen, Planner II

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

**Others Present**

Marcellus Evans, FDOT

Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning

Kathy Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planning

Carmen Monroy, Stantec Consulting

Omar De Leon, Collier Area Transit

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

*Mr. Dohm* moved to approve the agenda. *Mr. Henkel* seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

*Mr. Gelfand moved to approve the August 25, 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 said there were no updates.

**B. MPO**

Ms. McLaughlin announced that her contract as Executive Director will expire on March 9, 2026, and she has decided to retire. She is anticipating candidates will be interviewed at the December 11, 2025 MPO Board meeting, but if there is a delay there may be a special MPO Board meeting in January.

7. **Committee Action**

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

Ms. Hansen said that a Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update is required every 5 years by FDOT for transit agencies that receive State Block Grant Funds for transit system operations, like Collier Area Transit (CAT). Collier MPO funded Stantec Consulting to develop the update with CAT. The draft TDP was being presented for review and comment, which will be incorporated in the final draft.

Ms. Monroy provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the September 22, 2025 CAC Agenda), mentioning that the timeline will go through Committees and the MPO Board and presented to the Collier County Board of County Commissioners for approval on December 9, 2025. The TDP rule was recently amended to encourage more collaboration between transit agencies and MPOs, but the relationship and collaboration between Collier MPO and CAT is already strong. The plan thoroughly looked at data from peer transit agencies, as well as CAT operations, ridership projections, and the previous TDP. Recommendations were provided based on data evaluation, current conditions, peer evaluation, and public input.

A group discussion followed, regarding various aspects of the transit evaluation. It was noted that the evaluation addressed regular transit, but excluded paratransit, and did not establish eligibility requirements for paratransit riders. Prioritization criteria for recommendations were reviewed, highlighting the use of TBEST-generated trips and revenue hours of service as measures of effectiveness as the best

system for comparison with other agencies, with recommendations to expand the use of technology. A question regarding route planning for Everglades City was raised, and the area was identified as outside the core service zone. It was noted that a special study would be required to explore future inclusion of Everglades City in the CAT system. The aging driver workforce was mentioned as prompting efforts to attract new drivers through hiring incentives supported by FDOT and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). It was reported that rider fare collection covers approximately 13% of transit costs and is accepted through passes, the CAT app, or cash. A rider fare study was also in progress at the time.

*This item was presented for review and comment only.*

## **B. Endorse the Final Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

**Mr. Kingston** said that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) had gone through 2 years of development. Capital Consulting Solutions revised the draft BPMP following its presentation to CAC in August. The evaluation criteria point system for the Call for Projects process and clarification of various sections within the draft plan were revised based on comments from County Transportation Planning and MPO staff. The final draft of the BPMP is scheduled to be presented to the MPO Board for approval on October 10, 2025.

TAC endorsed the BPMP with the caveat put in place by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) that a statement on Page 17 be revised to deemphasize the description of a “well-connected” bike-ped network outside of the municipalities, regarding bicycle paths and trails, and for errors in the priority projects listed for Everglades City to be corrected.

A group discussion followed, regarding the BPAC's emphasis on bike lane improvements rather than sidewalks, although Committee members highlighted the need for expanded sidewalk connectivity in Collier as well. In the evaluation criteria, it was noted that the cost-benefit metric was updated from a “per capita” basis to refer to population density data from the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). In addition to the plan's gap analysis, which identifies areas lacking infrastructure within the Collier region, conducting a comparative study of bike/ped facilities across regions was suggested for future BPMP updates. The e-bike issue was discussed, and recent amendments to local ordinances were noted, including speed restrictions on sidewalks and shared-use paths, with guidance for e-bike riders to use bike lanes when available. It was mentioned that the plan prioritizes projects that support micromobility through infrastructure, connections, and policy integration. Safety concerns and increased e-bike usage as alternative to transit were acknowledged, particularly due to long transit intervals. The shared-use path along SR 951 was confirmed to be part of the Collier-Polk Regional Trail, with results of the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) expected soon.

*Mr. Dohm moved to endorse the Final Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Henkel seconded. Carried unanimously.*

## **C. Endorse the Final Draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan**

**Ms. McLaughlin** mentioned that the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) was following the same series of reviews as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP). Consultant, TY Lin, had revised the draft CSAP in response to comments received from Collier MPO Advisory Committees, Collier County Transportation Planning, the Steering Committee, and MPO staff. The CSAP final draft is expected to be presented to the MPO Board for approval on October 10, 2025.

Revisions to the draft since the CAC August meeting include minor text clarifications and the addition of a disclaimer under “How to Use this Plan” on Page 12, stating that all safety improvement processes must comply with the requirements of relevant agencies. **Ms. McLaughlin** provided a handout detailing the revisions underway based on comments from the last Congestion Management Committee meeting and from a County Transportation Safety Engineer. The intention is that when the public reads the plan, all proposals in the plan must still follow traditional engineering studies and be aligned with local regulations. (A copy of the handout can be obtained by contacting Collier MPO.) An achievable measure of reducing fatalities and serious injuries by 25% by 2050 was added to the State’s overall goal of Target Zero. **Ms. McLaughlin**, while working with the Steering Committee to develop the CSAP, had encouraged them to get involved in Community Traffic Safety Team meetings.

*Mr. Gelfand moved to endorse the Final Draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Mr. Dohm seconded. Carried unanimously.*

**D. Endorse the 2050 LRTP Revised Draft Evaluation Matrix/Project Ranking and Revised Draft Cost Feasible Roadway Projects**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that the Draft Evaluation Matrix and Cost Feasible Roadway Projects were presented to the Committee for review and comment in August. No comments from the Committee were received. Based on input received from Collier County Transportation Planning staff, a bridge at 16th St, SE/S of Golden Gate Blvd, was replaced with a bridge at Wilson Blvd. This update was reflected in the Needs Plan, Evaluation Matrix, and the draft Cost Feasible Plan. The revised documents were presented to the MPO Board for review on September 12, 2025. No additional comments have been received.

Collier MPO consultant, Jacobs Engineering, submitted the final Cost Feasible Roadway Network to FDOT on September 19, 2025. FDOT is keeping the door open for all MPOs to make further revisions to their Cost Feasible Roadway Networks, if needed Jacobs submitted a spreadsheet to FDOT that included the addition of the I-75 Widening Project from 6-8 lanes from Golden Gate Pkwy to Pine Ridge Rd and from Pine Ridge Rd to Immokalee Rd and 6-10 lanes from Immokalee to Bonita Beach Rd. These projects were funded by FDOT in the FY26-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

*Mr. Dohm moved to endorse the 2050 LRTP Revised Draft Evaluation Matrix/Project Ranking and Revised Draft Cost Feasible Roadway Projects. Mr. Gelfand seconded. Carried unanimously.*

**8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)**

None.

**9. Member Comments**

**Mr. Gelfand** said he thought he saw staging for the widening of Goodlette Frank Rd from Vanderbilt Rd to Immokalee Rd.

**Ms. Lantz** said the Goodlette Frank Rd from Vanderbilt Rd to Immokalee Rd project is in the design phase and what **Mr. Gelfand** saw may have been a stormwater project.

**Mr. Dohm** thanked the Committee for their support regarding keeping the Everglades City Airport open. He said **Mr. Henkel** and he worked on it, and it was a partial victory, and airport would remain open for the time being. **Mr. Dohm** added that the airport also acts as a staging area during natural disasters and having staging areas for natural disasters is important.

**Mr. Henkel** thanked **Ms. McLaughlin** for including the airport vote in the CAC Chair Report to the MPO Board.

**10. Distribution Items**

**A. Administrative Modification #1 to the FY 2026-30 Transportation Improvement Program (Updated Transit Safety Targets)**

*This item was distributed.*

**11. Next Meeting Date**

*October 27, 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 3:13 p.m.