

# COLLIER METROPLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) BOARD MEETING

Board of County Commissioner Chambers

3299 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples

9:00 a.m.

February 8, 2019

Meeting Minutes

## 1. Call to Order

**Commissioner McDaniel** called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

## 2. Roll Call

**Ms. Otero** called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

### Members Present

Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., Collier County BCC District 5, Chair

Commissioner Donna Fiala, Collier County BCC District 1

Commissioner Andy Solis, Collier County BCC District 2

Commissioner Burt Saunders, Collier County BCC District 3

Commissioner Penny Taylor, Collier County BCC District 4

Councilwoman Elaine Middelstaedt, City of Everglades City

Councilman Reg Buxton, City of Naples

Councilwoman Charlette Roman, City of Marco Island

### Members Absent

Councilman Terry Hutchison, City of Naples (newly appointed)

### MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, MPO Executive Director

Brandy Otero, MPO Senior Planner

Eric Ortman, MPO Senior Planner

Karen Intriago, MPO Administrative Assistant

### FDOT

Wayne Gaither, FDOT

Victoria Peters, District One Liaison

### Others Present

Scott Teach, Deputy County Attorney

Joe Bonness, BPAC

Michelle Avola, Naples Pathway Coalition

Lorrain Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning

Trinity Scott, Collier County Transportation Planning

## 3. Pledge of Allegiance

**Commissioner McDaniel** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 4. Election of Chair

*Commissioner Taylor nominated Councilman Buxton as Chair. Second by Commissioner Saunders. Carried unanimously.*

*Commissioner Taylor nominated Councilwoman Middelstaedt as Vice-Chair. Second by Councilman Buxton. Carried unanimously.*

**5. Approval of the Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items**

**5. A. December 14, 2018 MPO Board Meeting Minutes**

**5.B. Appointment of a New Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Member representing Everglades City**

**5.C. Appointment of a New Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Member representing the City of Naples**  
*Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items. Second by Commissioner McDaniel. Carried unanimously.*

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

**Ms. Avola** stated that Naples Pathway Coalition (NPC) has been working with Rails to Trails and a consultant on putting together an off-road nonmotorized shared used pathway system for Collier County. Ms. Avola also invited anyone that is interested to attend the NPC Bike Brunch on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fleishman Park.

**7. Agency Updates**

**A. FDOT**

**Mr. Gaither** noted that on January 18<sup>th</sup> Governor DeSantis appointed Kevin Thibault as FDOT's new secretary. Mr. Thibault has extensive experience in both the private and public sector.

**Ms. Peters** stated that the Tentative Work Program has been updated to reflect a few changes. A new PD&E study has been added for I-75 and Pine Ridge Rd. This will evaluate the interchange and intersection improvements, the scheduled time for the study will be FY20. SR951 from Manatee Rd. to North of Tower Rd project has added just under \$13 million in funding to the construction phase. This project adds four to six lanes, rehab pavements, resurfacing, a 10-foot shared use path, 5-foot sidewalk on the westside of the roadway and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. Ms. Peters noted that with the addition of the PD&E study for Pine Ridge Rd, the Whippoorwill to Napa Blvd. sidewalk project was deleted because these projects will be included in the County's infrastructure improvement for that corridor. The funds for these projects have been returned to the MPO's SU box. SR82 from Gator Slough to SR29 construction phase was moved from FY19 to FY20. Ms. Peters stated that the debris on Trail Blvd. has been removed and lighting has been completed from Pine Ridge Rd. to Gulf Park Dr. The entire project is scheduled for completion for the end of March. Ms. Peters noted that the lights on Jolley Bridge will be completed by the end of March beginning of April. FDOT will also be replacing the structures for both bridges.

**Commissioner Fiala** asked if there will be any lights added on US41 from SR951 to Greenway.

**Ms. Peters** stated that a lighting project has been let (out for bids) for that segment.

**Commissioner McDaniel** noted that he has previously expressed how important it is that the north end of SR29 and SR82 be prioritized first before SR 29 south of Immokalee due to the amount of traffic it receives daily and safety concerns. Commissioner McDaniel would like to know what the procedure is to adjust FDOT's prioritization for funding those projects.

**Mr. Gaither** noted that FDOT has been working with project management in reviewing the way FDOT is approaching SR29 and other areas that needed to be addressed. Mr. Gaither stated that a meeting could be arranged to discuss this further.

## **B. MPO Executive Director**

**Ms. McLaughlin** noted that staff handed out copies this morning to Board members of a letter she signed supporting FDOT's proposal to include doing a Feasibility Study of an interchange at Vanderbilt Beach Rd in the PD&E study FDOT has underway for I-75. This study will not be charged to the MPOs budget.

## **8. Committee Chair Report**

### **8.A.1. Citizen Advisory Committee Chair Report**

**Ms. McLaughlin** stated that the CAC was unable to obtain a quorum for their January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. This was due in part to staff's error - not including William Stephens in the email distribution so he was not aware of the meeting.

### **8.B.1 Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report**

**Ms. Lantz** noted that the TAC met on January 28<sup>th</sup> and a quorum was obtained. MPO staff reported that the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) submitted notice that they will no longer participate on the TAC as a non-voting member. The Lee MPO Director Don Scott stated that the SWFRPC has not been attending Lee's TAC meetings as voting members. MPO staff was asked to correspond with the SWFRPC concerning why they no longer wish to participate.

**Ms. McLaughlin** stated that she has reached out to the SWFRPC and the Executive Director stated that they will participate if they are a voting member for the committee.

**Ms. Lantz** noted that the committee elected her as Chair and Tim Brock as Vice-Chair. The committee endorsed the Golden Gate Walkable Community Study as well as the Public Participation Plan. The FDOT Tentative Work Program was discussed and provided Ms. Peters with comments. Ms. McLaughlin updated the committee on the progress made concerning revisions to the draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan.

### **8.C.1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair Report**

**Joe Bonness** noted that the BPAC met on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and a quorum was obtained. The committee reelected Joe Bonness as Chair and elected Anthony Matonti as Vice-Chair. The Golden Gate Walkable Community Study was endorsed. Ms. McLaughlin updated the committee on the progress made concerning revisions to the draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan.

### **8.D.1 Congestion Management Committee Chair Report**

**Ms. McLaughlin** noted that the CMC Chairman's report was submitted in writing and is in the meeting packet. Neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair attended today's meeting to give the report.

### **8.E.1 Local Coordinating Board (LCB)**

## **9. Regular Board Action (Roll Call Required)**

None.

## **10. Regular Board Action (No Roll Call)**

**10.A. Election of Representation to Serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Governing Board for 2019.**

*Commissioner Saunders moved to reelect Councilman Buxton as Representative on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council and Commissioner McDaniel as the MPO's alternate. Second by Commissioner McDaniel. Carried unanimously.*

#### **10.B. Adopt Golden Gate City Walkable Community Study**

**Ms. Otero** presented the PowerPoint "*Golden Gate City Walkable Community Study*" highlighting the following:

- The Golden Gate City Walkable Community Study was started a year ago to identify the need to evaluate bicycle and pedestrian mobility options and issues throughout Collier County.
- Intent was to specifically assess and improve walkability conditions in mobility restricted communities.
- Walkability studies have been identified in the past for Naples Manor, Immokalee, and Bayshore.
- The goals for the study are to provide Collier County agencies and organizations an efficient and effective way to integrate the pedestrian needs of the community. As well as to prioritize list of sidewalk and pedestrian amenity projects which would promote and enhance walkability, bicycle use, transit use and social equity throughout the community.
- Extensive data collection, public involvement and technical analysis took place in developing the Study.
- Golden Gate City is a four-square mile community and has a total of 76- miles of roadway.
- Most of the roads are local, two-lane roadways without sidewalks or curbs and with open drainage swales.
- Existing network currently has 30.5 miles of sidewalks and 4.2 miles of bike lanes,
- The study assesses the pedestrian experience within the community by reviewing existing conditions and working directly with stakeholders.
- The consultant was on-site to observe morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal for schools.
- Conducted walking and bicycle audits.

**Mr. Grainer** presented the second half of the PowerPoint "*Golden Gate City Walkable Community Study*" the technical evaluation, highlighting:

- Pedestrian Level of Service methodology was conducted for the study. This evaluated the directness of the sidewalks, continuity, concerns with street crossings and security.
- An expanded methodology was included using GIS overlays to analyze the network and Jacobs developed a weighted scoring element to provide a quantitative analysis.
- Buffers were drawn around each school, government center, and commercial centers to identify any missing sidewalk segments that fell within a quarter mile, eighth mile and half mile radius
- The combined forms of analysis validated the need for pedestrian infrastructure within Golden Gate City serving the first and last mile walking and bicyclist links to transit.
- Major arterials received higher scores compared to local roads, due to the concentration of activity in these locations.
- Each roadway was evaluated for connectivity and those which would significantly improve connectivity and benefit residents the most received a connectivity score of 20.
- The study prioritized the needs of each segment and put them into three tiers. Tier 1 represents the highest priority based on benefit to the community; Tier 2 projects are instrumental in completing a continuous sidewalk network throughout the community; Tier 3 projects will enhance overall walkability within the community.
- Short-term and mid-term projects were added to the study to recommend other types of improvements in addition to building new sidewalks.

**Commissioner McDaniel** noted that coordination should be done with Wastewater and Water Utilities because the County recently took over the utility in Golden Gate City.

**Commissioner Fiala** asked what the study's conclusion is for Golden Gate City.

**Mr. Grainer** stated that Golden Gate City is severely lacking sidewalks. Golden Gate City currently has a portion of a network, but on just 36% of the overall roadway system.

**Commissioner Saunders** noted that the taxing district is set up to generate a million dollars a year, and this will help cover funds for projects in Golden Gate City.

**Trinity Scott** noted that the County will utilize the study as a basis for grant opportunities. The County used the Immokalee Walkable Study as the basis for the TIGER Grant application.

*Commissioner Saunders moved to adopt the Golden Gate City Walkable Community Study. Second by Commissioner Taylor. Carried unanimously.*

#### **10.C. Adopt Public Participation Plan**

**Ms. McLaughlin** stated that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) is an update of what previously was called the Public Involvement Plan. The plan was taken to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) in May 2018. Extensive comments were received from the committee members. MPO staff presented a substantially revised draft to the advisory committees in October 2018; no revisions were requested at that time. Ms. McLaughlin stated that she attended the Regional MPOs Directors meeting and was impressed by Polk TPO's Public Participation Plan, because it is very user-friendly. Staff used Polk TPO's formatting and methods on ways to engage public participation. Another reason for the change in approach concerns eliminating practices that have been used throughout the years that have not been effective in generating public comments – such as posting legal ads and distributing hard copies of documents to public libraries. Ms. McLaughlin noted that what has proven effective is the MPO's advisory committee process. The CAC and BPAC are citizen-based committees. Engaged members of public are aware of these committee meetings and attend them whenever a topic of interest is being discussed. Online comments have also generated a lot of comments in the past year.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to adopt the Public Participation Plan. Second by Councilwoman Roman. Carried unanimously.*

### **11. Presentations (May Require Board Action)**

#### **11.A. Update on the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP)**

**Ms. McLaughlin** presented the Executive Summary “*Update on Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.*” The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) has been developed through a very extensive planning process. The vision statement is to provide a safe and comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network that promotes and encourages community use and enjoyment. This statement grew out of the public involvement and the advisory committee process. The primary goals for the plan are to provide safety, equity, network connectivity and community health. The first phase of the development for this project took place between October 2017 and August 2018 with periodic reviews by the advisory committees occurring throughout that time. In August 2018, MPO staff took a preliminary draft plan to the committees for review. The draft generated a substantial amount of comment. Staff took the draft back in-house and, with the help of the consultant, Tindale Oliver, made extension revisions, updating the existing facilities inventory, Environmental Justice (EJ) community identification, addressing rate FDOT's identification of the 5 worst road segments in Collier County for bicycle and pedestrian crashes. MPO staff began working with Naples Pathway Coalition (NPC) and the City of Naples on a

joint bicycle map. Through this collaboration, MPO staff was able to improve the existing condition inventory for the BPMP. During the development of the BPMP, the City of Naples adopted the Downtown Mobility Study and the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Complete Street Resolution. These new policies were incorporated in the BPMP. MPO also coordinated with NPC to incorporate their Spine Trail Vision, Coastal Paradise Bike Route and proposed improved crossing at Seagate and Crayton Road. The Spine Trail Vision adds a second alignment to the SunTrail network that aligns well with Lee County plans and includes connections to the Gordon River Greenway and on to Golden Gate City and Immokalee. Ms. McLaughlin noted that an existing and proposed facility map has been created to focus on short-term investment because these plans are updated every five years. Staff is still working on refining the Spine Trail alignment from Golden Gate to Immokalee and down to Marco Island and beyond. Ms. McLaughlin stated that the Conservancy of Southwest Florida has just recently commented on the portion of existing SunTrail alignment through Rookery Bay. The final draft will be taken through the advisory committees in February for endorsement and to the Board in March for adoption.

**April Olson** noted that the Conservancy is concerned with several alignments in the Rookery Bay area. Some of these areas have mangroves on both sides and lifting the road or making any other type of improvements can result in a mangrove die-off.

**Commissioner Taylor** stated that the redevelopment of Bayshore is ongoing and would like to know if there are any pathways along Bayshore.

**Ms. McLaughlin** stated that there has been involvement with the CRA throughout the plan. The BPMP includes a policy adopting CRA plans by reference. This way the staff of these entities can bring forward priorities for funding based on a wealth of knowledge that the MPO staff wouldn't be able to capture on its own. Ms. McLaughlin stated that the BPMP focuses on major arterials and collector roads but includes recommendation for local roads as well.

**Michelle Avola** noted that cyclists are using a dirt path or an adjacent parking lot to cross over to Seagate from Crayton Rd, but it's not safe because it hasn't been designated as a pathway or marked as a crossing. Having this pathway become a recognized paved pathway will allow for a safe route for the public that currently utilize the path. NPC will be getting in contact with the Pelican Bay Foundation to have this path recognized.

**Ms. McLaughlin** stated that if the Board of County Commissioner is interested in pursuing Seagate connection she is willing to help have discussion because, from a regional perspective, it makes sense to have this connection as part of a coastal bike route.

#### **11.B. Update on 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

**Ms. McLaughlin** stated that contract negotiations are nearing completion for the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and staff anticipates bringing a contract to the Board for approval at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff anticipated a cost on the order of \$351,000 based on discussions with other MPOs within District 1 and an understanding that the 2040 LRTP had cost on the order of \$300,000. Staff subsequently discovered that the actual cost of the 2040 LRTP totaled over \$600,000. discovered. For the 2045 LRTP, to establish a basic plan covering all the required elements in the scope would cost about \$492,000. The cost could go as high as \$590,000 to include optional tasks that would provide more flexibility in responding to public input. These options will be contingent upon needing them as the plan unfurls, allowing staff to do additional data crunching and analyses. Ms. McLaughlin noted that the base amount of \$492,000 could be covered using PL funds made available due to the MPO not having to cover the cost of the D1 Travel Demand Model (\$30,000). The budget to cover optional services could come from tapping into SU box funds. Project number 4051061 in the Tentative Work

Program had over a million in SU dollars in it when the Board reviewed the Work Program. The Board asked MPO staff to propose a spend down plan, so those funds would not be lost, FDOT and the County worked together and some of those funds were moved to the Pine Ridge Interchange study. Which left \$500,000 in FY2019/2020. MPO staff would like to use \$130,000 of these funds, but due to an FDOT Work Program rule, the MPO cannot tap into SU when carrying a balance greater than 20% of unspent PL funds. That is the situation the MPO is in, due to saving PL funds over the years to have sufficient budget to pay for the LRTP update. However, MPO staff is working with FDOT to develop a plan to spend down the PL funds in order to tap into SU funds when they are needed to complete the 2045 LRTP.

**Ms. Peters** stated that FDOT and the MPO staff are working together to alleviate the funds in the box without having the MPO get out of compliance with the 20% rule.

## **12. Distribution Items**

### **12. A. Tindale- Oliver & Associates, Inc Contract Modification Comprehensive Pathway Plan**

**12. B. Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Legislative Update**  
**Commissioner McDaniel** noted that he would like to see if there is anything the MPO Board could do to assist and promote the legislation for enhancement of penalty for distracted driving and have the bill named after the former Executive Director of NPC, Beth Brainerd.

### **12. C. Revised 2019 MPO Calendar**

**Ms. Otero** stated that the April MPO Board meeting will be held in Everglades City Hall, the time has been changed to 10:00 a.m. to allow travel time

## **13. Member Comment**

**Commissioner McDaniel** thanked Ms. Peters for doing an amazing job in responding to the public's needs, especially in Immokalee.

## **14. Next Meeting Date**

Regular Meeting – March 8, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. Board of County Commissioners Chambers

## **15. Adjourn**

*With no further comments Commissioner McDaniel adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.*