

**CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON HYBRID MEETING
ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM
MEETING MINUTES
March 29, 2021 2:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gelfand called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

CAC Members Present In-Person

Neal Gelfand, Chair, District II
Dennis DiDonna, At-Large
George Dondanville, At-Large
Karen Homiak, District I (joined during item 5)
Rick Hart, Persons with Disabilities

CAC Members Present Virtually

Fred Sasser, City of Naples
Pam Brown, District V (joined after roll call)
Tammie Pernas, Everglades City
Robert Phelan, City of Marco Island

CAC Members Absent

Suzanne Cross, City of Naples
Josh Rincon, Representative of Minorities

MPO Staff (Present In-Person)

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner
Karen Intriago, Administrative Assistant

Others (Present Virtually)

Victoria Peters, FDOT
Trinity Scott, County Transportation Planning
Lorraine Lantz, County Transportation Planning
Michael Tisch, County Transportation Planning

3. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Pernas moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Hart seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Pernas moved to approve the February 22, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Hart seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. Peters – FDOT’s ITS and 4-P teams are doing constructability reviews of the Congestion Management Committee’s priority projects. Will be able to give MPO new download of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project data by April 9th.

Mr. Gelfand – did you follow up on request made last month - will ped/bike project planned for Wiggins Pass prevent widening the road to relieve congestion?

Ms. Peters – did not recall that, apologizes, will follow-up next meeting.

Ms. McLaughlin – Wiggins Pass is County-owned road, not a question FDOT can answer. Prepared to report on projects in 2045 LRTP related to question under next agenda item.

B. MPO Director

Ms. McLaughlin – Projects proposed to address congestion in area committee members concerned with:

- Veteran’s Memorial Parkway listed in County’s Annual Update and Inventory Report (AUIR), 5-year Capital Improvement Program, shows connecting to US 41.
- LRTP Travel Demand Model runs tested widening Vanderbilt Dr to 4-lanes, showed no improvement to congestion on US 41; no indication Wiggins Pass would be overcapacity. But US 41 is a problem.
- Three projects added to Cost Feasible Plan (referenced Table 6-2, Page 6-4):
 - Map ID 111: Intersection Innovation/Improvements at Immokalee Rd/ US 41; Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study and Construction FYs 26-30; \$23 million.
 - Map ID 60: Calls for further study US 41 from Immokalee Rd to Old US 4 to include Complete Streets and Transportation System Management and Operations (TSM&O) Improvements; PD&E and Right of Way (ROW) in FYs 26-30; Construction FYs 2031-2025; \$26 million.
 - Map ID 39: widening Old US 41 from US 41 to Lee/Collier County Line from 2 to 4 lanes; PD&E and ROW in FYs 26-30; Construction in FY’s 2031-2035; \$36 million.

Mr. Hart – will MPO include audible signals in improvements to pedestrian crossing at US 41 and Wiggins Pass?

Ms. McLaughlin – MPO not in charge of design. County has bike/ped project on Wiggins Pass, but it doesn’t include US41/Wiggins Pass intersection. Audible signal can be part of the study [Map ID 60 in 2045 LRTP].

Mr. DiDonna – Trinity Scott needs to be here to answer to this.

Ms. Scott – I am here, on the phone.

Mr. DiDonna – why talking about audible signals when there are no crosswalks on Wiggins Pass except at 41 and Vanderbilt Dr, and no crosswalks on Vanderbilt Dr from Bonita Beach Rd south? 500 new units at Kalea Bay going in at corner of Wiggins Pass/Vanderbilt Dr – did they get counted? County just approved Naples One. Is that factored in? Can't tell me it will get better when there are no crosswalks.

Ms. McLaughlin – for clarification, Mr. Hart and I were talking about adding audible signals at crosswalks at Wiggins Pass Rd and US 41 intersection.

Ms. Scott – County relies on the LRTP and AUIR. Yes, vested developments were included in travel model calculations for 2045 LRTP and AUIR. The AUIR looks at today's traffic with projections with what has been approved. The roads (Vanderbilt Dr, Wiggins Pass Rd) are all anticipated to operate at a level of Service (LOS) that is adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). No deficiencies are indicated in the adopted LOS.

Crosswalks governed by regulations applicable to all public roadways. FDOT follows Code of Federal Regulations; all agencies follow Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, requires specific warrants for mid-block crossings; if thresholds not met, engineers won't put them in because incur liability.

Per BCC policy, County does not build roads for peak season. Roads designed for pm peak hour/peak direction for nonpeak time of year. Understood there will be congestion during high season; if the decision was to be reversed and roads were to be built to accommodate peak season traffic, impact fees could not be charged, other funding sources needed. Taxes might increase.

Ms. Peters – Will look into audible signals on US 41 & Wiggins Pass Rd, FDOT might be able to add them.

Mr. Gelfand – Let's get back to today's agenda.

Ms. McLaughlin – [continued report] MPO Board approved lowering in-person quorum to 3, will bring Board's bylaw revision to committee to ratify in April. Posted Draft FY 22-26 TIP to website last Friday, announced in March Newsletter. Welcome comments. MPO staff will bring Draft TIP to TAC/CAC in April for formal review; time allowing will include changes based on new FDOT download.

7. **Committee Action**

A. Endorse Amendment to FY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Authorizing Resolution

Ms. McLaughlin - introduced item, requested by FDOT to recognize 5310 funding received for two projects – Operating Assistance for Easter Seals and Notice of Grant Award for 6 busses for Collier Area Transit. One of several amendments coming forward because transit grant awards are on different schedule and funds must be obligated by end of this fiscal year. No public comments received thus far.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the amendment to the FY 2021-2025 TIP and authorizing resolution. Mr. Hart seconded. Passed unanimously.

B. Review and Comment on 2021 Project Priorities

Ms. McLaughlin - introduced item, preliminary look at draft 2021 project priorities for review and comment. Will ask for endorsement of final lists in April so Board can preview in May, approve in June. Congestion management projects are new and slated for SU programming in new 5th year of new Work Program [next year's]. Priorities include Planning – programming in advance for the 2050 LRTP; Highways, identified in 2045 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan; Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP), two new projects proposed by County, coordinating reviews with Lee MPO. Transit, see new handout which adds asset management projects – replacement busses and service vehicles, Administration/Passenger Station roof replacement. These are needed to address Transit Asset Management performance measures and targets adopted by MPO Board.

Mr. DiDonna – What is the load factor for transit now, peak and non-peak?

Ms. Otero – Transit is not here to answer the question, but the priorities are based on the Transit Development Plan which is incorporated into the 2045 LRTP.

Mr. Dondanville – What is the reasoning behind the Park and Ride priority described as “Beach Lot” on Pine Ridge Road? What is the New Naples Pier Electric Shuttle project? Is that going to take the place of the private shuttles that operate there now?

Ms. Otero – The Park and Ride priorities came out of a related study. The shuttle project will not compete with private shuttles.

Mr. Dondanville – my point is, the Naples City Council does not support public transit; they don't want it. Were they involved in developing these plans?

Ms. Otero – Yes.

C. Endorse Local Roads Safety Plan

Ms. McLaughlin - gave briefing on revisions to the Local Roads Safety Plan; added information on current practices to section on recommendations; noted that many of the recommended strategies have already been put into practice, incorporated into the Transportation System Performance Report and Action Plan approved in September 2020, and the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, adopted December 2020, or already in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, adopted in 2019. Revisions include comments provided by County Traffic Operations, City of Naples and County Sheriff's Office. Based on review, staff identified need for several enhanced practices from original recommendations – speed management focused on high crash locations; more proactive public education on traffic safety vehicular and bike/ped; high crash locations identified in Local Roads Safety Plan added to list of locations eligible for safety funding under the 2045 LRTP. Requesting endorsement from committee with understanding that staff will continue to refine formatting and make corrections if needed based on advisory committee reviews. CMC voted to endorse at their March 17th meeting. TAC voted to endorse the plan at their meeting held this morning.

Mr. Gelfand – questions the Sheriff's Office explanation for why they don't issue as many citations as the rest of the state, but other than that, the study is very well done in terms of analysis.

Mr. Dondanville moved to endorse the Local Roads Safety Plan. Ms. Homiak seconded. Passed unanimously

8. Reports and Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Member Comments

Mr. DiDonna – went to see new section of Veterans Memorial Blvd out to the high school. There was no public input, but everything has already been decided. County staff presented it as the final design. People in Imperial are upset. It only goes to the high school; won't connect to US41 until some day in future fairy land. County is working on a grandiose new plan for moving traffic on Immokalee, millions of dollars being spent on a fly over, widening from 2 to 4 lanes. Veterans Blvd ought to go under I-75 to Logan, take traffic off Immokalee. How did Naples One get approved?

Ms. Brown – Agrees it's a problem. New developments coming in on Immokalee and priorities change; a project goes away that has been on the agenda for some time.

Mr. Dondanville - [by way of introduction] appointed to committee year ago but did not get to see everyone [in-person] until today [due to COVID]. Moved here in 1986, from Ft. Myers, was working for a bike shop, became a member of first pathways committee, first advisory committee to the MPO, in the 80's.

10. Distribution Items

10A. Administrative Modification FY 2021-2025 TIP – S Golf Dr Sidewalk Project

11. Next Meeting Date

April 26, 2021 – 2:00 p.m. – 2800 Horseshoe Drive North, Room 609/610.

11. Adjournment

There being no further comment or business to discuss, Mr. Gelfand adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.