

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the  
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 25, 2022 2:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

**Mr. Philips** called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

**CAC Members Present**

Elaine Middelstaedt, Chair  
Karen Homiak  
Dennis DiDonna  
Fred Sasser  
Josh Rincon  
Robert Phelan  
Rick Hart [arrived 6A]

**CAC Members Absent**

Katelyn Harrington  
Neal Gelfand, Vice-Chair

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director  
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner  
Scott Philips, Principal Planner

**Others Present**

Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning  
David Agacinski, FDOT

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

*Ms. Rincon moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Homiak seconded. Carried unanimously.*

**4. Approval of the February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

*Ms. Homiak moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.*

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

None.

## 6. Agency Updates

### A. FDOT

**Ms. McLaughlin** relayed the following information to the CAC on behalf of FDOT:

FDOT will be presenting the Everglades City Copeland Avenue and Oasis Visitor Center projects at the Everglades City May 3rd City Council meeting, and at the Collier MPO May 13th Board Meeting.

FDOT will present the Old US 41 PD&E Study at the Collier MPO May 17th BPAC meeting, the May 23rd TAC and CAC meetings, and at the June 10th MPO Board meeting; the Lee MPO May 24th and June 2nd committee meetings and June 17th MPO Board meeting; and at the June 1st Bonita Springs City Council meeting.

### B. MPO Executive Director

**Ms. McLaughlin:** Announced that Ms. Daniel Bates, the MPO's Administrative Assistant, has left the MPO for a new position with Collier County Transportation Services. The position has been advertised and interviews will take place after the May 13<sup>th</sup> MPO Board Meeting.

## 7. Committee Action

### A. Endorse FY 2022/23- 2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

**Ms. Otero:** This is the final FY 22/23-23/24 UPWP that will be presented at the May 13th MPO Board Meeting. A few changes have been made to the document with the major change being a reduction of \$200,000 in SU funds to the MPO. This was done in coordination with FDOT and does not substantially impact the program. FDOT will provide the \$200,000 in SU funds in the FY 24/25-25/26 UPWP Cycle. When the SU funding is returned it will be used to complete the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan. Other changes include updating some formatting, adding contract numbers to the cover page, revising soft-match language, revising summary budget tables, and adding UPWP comments and responses to comments to Appendix D. We expect revised comments from FHWA, so there may be a few revisions to the comment section between this meeting and the May 13th Board meeting. I expect the main revision will be FHWA removing their comment regarding SU funding.

Ms. Otero provided a handout to the CAC showing revised the UPWP Summary Budget Tables 3 – 6 at the start of the meeting. Ms. Otero noted that the MPO received an updated allocation from the TD Trust that increased the MPO's total TD Trust allocation to \$27,954.

**Ms. Homiak** moved to endorse FY 2022/23- 2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).  
**Mr. Rincon** seconded. Carried unanimously.

### B. Endorse Updated SUN Trail Alignment for the Florida Greenways and Trails System Map

**Ms. McLaughlin:** We are asking the committee to endorse the updated SUN Trail alignment for the Florida Greenways and Trails System. The purpose to have an updated alignment is so we can tap into

SUN Trail funding when opportunities arise. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) is updating the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan including the maps. The last update to the Florida Greenways and Trails Plan and Maps was 2018, just before the MPO adopted its Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan in 2019. The map is consistent with the MPOs Bike/Ped Master Plan. The BPAC endorsed the alignment at their April 19th meeting, and this item will be presented at the May 13th MPO Board meeting for approval. The deadline to submit to OGT is May 31st. OGT has asked submittals to be in a GIS shapefile format. MPO staff support the updated alignment, and the BPAC has endorsed the alignment. Ms. McLaughlin provided a verbal description of the updated alignment to the committee noting that minor adjustments can be made as the project moves through the PD&E phase.

**Mr. Phelan:** Is the path 8 ft. minimum?

**Ms. McLaughlin:** The proposed width is 12 ft.

**Mr. Agacinski:** Current standards for SUN Trail is a 10 ft. minimum, however the minimum widths may be expanded to a 14 ft. minimum.

**Mr. Hart:** Will the path veer towards the road intersection as you are traveling down Livingston?

**Ms. McLaughlin:** When we get to PD&E phase the alignment will be refined for development.

**Mr. DiDonna:** Why are we approving something that may change?

**Ms. McLaughlin:** The PD&E study will provide additional analysis that will determine the exact alignment of the trail.

*Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the Updated SUN Trail Alignment for the Florida Greenways and Trails System Map 2022 Update. Mr. Hart seconded. Carried unanimously.*

## **8. Reports and Presentations**

### **A. Everglades City Sidewalk & SR 90 at Oasis Visitor Center Project Presentation**

**Mr. Agacinski, FDOT,** made a presentation to the committee on the Copeland Avenue (CR 29) sidewalk project in Everglades City, and the SR 90 (US 41) at the Oasis Visitor Center turn lane project. He stated that the project will be let in June and anticipates construction to begin 3 to 4 months after the bids are open. The projects are being let as a single package. Mr. Agacinski then reviewed the Copeland Avenue Sidewalk project with the committee. He told the committee that the collaboration between the MPO, FDOT, Collier County, and Everglades City was instrumental in advancing the Copeland Avenue project to construction. During construction pedestrian access will be maintained in the two lane section of the construction zone by temporarily closing the existing northbound lane to vehicle traffic; in the project zone's four lane section the northbound outside lane will be temporarily closed to vehicles to provide pedestrian access, the northbound inside lane will remain open to vehicles. The project includes a new sidewalk section to connect to the existing sidewalk just north of the Chokoloskee Bay Bridge. Pedestrian

safety in the construction zone will be maintained by using temporary traffic barriers and controls. A temporary signal will be placed at each end of the construction zone.

Mr. Agacinski followed the Copeland Avenue Sidewalk project presentation with the SR 90 at the Oasis Visitor Center project. He told the committee that the National Park Service was the project applicant. Due to the high-speed nature of the corridor the project will improve safety for vehicles turning into the visitor center. The project adds a dedicated east-bound left turn lane and a dedicated west-bound right turn lane with a bicycle keyhole at the Oasis Visitor Center entrance. A 5-foot shoulder will be maintained for bike use along the westbound lane. Signage will be posted on SR 90 in each direction during construction approximately 1-mile from the Oasis Visitor's Center entrance to provide advance warning of the construction zone. The project will be let as one package in June 2022, construction is expected to start in September 2022.

**Ms. Middelstaedt:** This is wonderful.

#### **B. Update on Draft 2022 TRIP Priorities**

**Ms. McLaughlin** told the committee that this is an initial look at the draft list of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) project priorities and that the MPO is not seeking endorsement at this time. The list of projects is supported by the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan and has been collaboratively developed with the Lee County MPO. We have not received a detailed explanation from Lee MPO on changes to their list. There is a large match for the funds, up to 50% of a project's cost.

**Ms. Lantz** explained that Collier County's TRIP project list is essentially the same list that was previously submitted with a few revisions to project implementation schedules, cost estimates, and funding.

**Ms. McLaughlin:** The MPO will bring the TRIP 2022 Priority list to the May 23<sup>rd</sup> TAC and CAC meetings for endorsement.

#### **C. Update on Draft FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Ms. McLaughlin** told the committee the TIP pages in the packet are from the February 2022 Work Program Snapshot. FDOT sent the April 2022 Work Program snapshot after the packet was distributed. The handouts summarize the financial changes to projects reflected in the April snapshot, but staff has not had time to complete its review and update the project sheets in the TIP. An initial review shows that we are receiving additional funds for several projects and some project cost corrections. Ms. McLaughlin provided a verbal description of some of the changes. The final draft 2023-27 TIP will be brought to the committee for endorsement next month. Committee members were asked to contact Ms. McLaughlin with any questions or comments.

### **9. Member Comments**

None

### **10. Distribution Items**

A. Administrative Modification #4 to the FY2022-2026 TIP

## **11. Next Meeting Date**

*May 23, 2022 – 2 p.m. – in person*

*Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.*