

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Board of County Commission Chambers
Collier County Government Center
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor
Naples, FL 34112
September 9, 2022
9:30 a.m.**

****HYBRID REMOTE – IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Perry called the meeting to order at approximately 9:31 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present (in BCC Chambers)

Council Member Paul Perry, City of Naples, Chair
Commissioner Penny Taylor, Collier County BCC District 4
Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., Collier County BCC District 5
Commissioner Rick LoCastro, Collier County BCC District 1
Council Member Tony Pernas, Everglades City
Commissioner Burt Saunders, Collier County BCC District 3
Council Member Greg Folley, City of Marco Island, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Andy Solis, Collier County BCC District 2
Council Member Ted Blankenship, City of Naples

Members Absent

None

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Scott Philips, Principal Planner
Dusty Siegler, Administrative Assistant

FDOT

L.K. Nandam, FDOT Secretary
Victoria Peters, Community Liaison
Wayne Gaither, Manager, District 1 Southwest Area Office (SWAO)

Others Present

Trinity Scott, Department Head, Transportation Management Services Department
Michelle Arnold, Collier County Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement
Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney
Anthony Matonti, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair
Troy Miller, Manager, BCC Television Operations
Danielle Bates, Operations Analyst, Transportation Management Services Department
Michelle Avola-Brown, Executive Director, Naples Pathways Coalition

Zoom Participants

Brandy Otero, MPO Principal Planner (virtually)

Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning (virtually)

Megan Greer, Blue Zones (virtually)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CONSENT ITEMS

4.A. June 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

4.B. Approval of a Change Order to Purchase Order Number 4500217874 for the Congestion Management Process Update, in the amount of \$9,404 and to add 80 additional days to the project. (Agreement # 18-7432 MP, Alfred Benesch, Inc.)

Council Member Folley moved to approve the Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items and Commissioner LoCastro seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

6. AGENCY UPDATES

6.A. FDOT

Ms. Peters discussed the following upcoming events:

- FDOT is holding a regional grant information session on October 13 from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m., at the North Fort Myers Public Library. FDOT encourages eligible local agencies to apply for the many new discretionary grant opportunities created through the bipartisan infrastructure bill. FDOT wants to ensure that its local partners have the knowledge, data and resources to be direct recipients of federal grant money. The session is very informative.
- FDOT is participating in this year's Mobility Week from October 21 through October 28. There are various events FDOT participates in to promote safe and sustainable transportation choices and encourage Floridians to try new transportation choices. As those events become more available, Ms. Peters will provide additional information. Some events are held at the library off of Orange Blossom Drive, including a helmet fitting. A helmet fitting will also be held in Immokalee.

Commissioner LoCastro asked how FDOT is doing in terms of its responsibilities for cleaning up trash on the side of the roads and maintaining the grass, and whether things are better now than they were months ago. **Ms. Peters** indicated she thinks things are better and there is a new contractor on board. Ms. Peters also knows Ferrovial's project manager for Commissioner LoCastro's area, and the manager is very responsive; she or Ms. Scott can reach out to the project manager if there are concerns that Commissioner LoCastro would like relayed. **Commissioner LoCastro** stated that there were a few months when trash at roadsides/parks an issue and he was reached out to Ms. Scott about getting trash picked up. The issue seems to be moving in a positive direction.

Commissioner LoCastro inquired as to the status of the FDOT's 951/ I-75 interchange improvement project and whether it is still on track. **Ms. Peters** relayed that the notice to proceed was issued on September 9, 2022 (today). It is a design-build project and the official schedules are expected soon. When the schedules are available, she will provide them to Commissioner LoCastro, Ms. Scott, and Ms. McLaughlin. **Commissioner LoCastro** indicated he would expect it to be a multi-year construction project. Being a \$98 million project, he requests the commissioners be kept up to date on the status, as the project impacts many people. **Secretary Nandam** clarified that the notice to proceed means that the design can be started, which will likely take a year, and it is expected to be a multi-year project. The official schedule will be provided and the project team will periodically provide updates. **Commissioner LoCastro** indicated that it was implied to him that construction may begin in the spring or summer of next year and **Secretary Nandam** responded that we may see clearing or preparation for construction at that time.

6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. McLaughlin introduced the MPO's new administrative assistant, Ms. Siegler.

Ms. McLaughlin received three responses for the survey she sent out and inquired if it would be helpful if she sent the survey in paper or in a fillable PDF. **Commissioner Taylor** indicated that she had completed it. **Commissioner McDaniel** suggested that a reminder be sent out. **Ms. McLaughlin** said she would send a reminder and that Commissioner Solis, Council Member Pernas and Commissioner Taylor had responded.

7. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

Ms. McLaughlin explained that the CAC Chair was not present and the report in the agenda packet should be sufficient and indicated she could respond to any questions the MPO Board may have.

7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the TAC Chair, Ms. Lantz, was available via Zoom if there were questions and the report in the agenda packet should be sufficient.

7.C. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

7.C.1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair Report

Mr. Matonti, BPAC Chair, discussed the following items:

- BPAC takes time and is thoughtful in producing its priority list. Most of the work BPAC does in its meetings is prioritizing its list, discussing projects and vetting them. BPAC currently has eleven projects it is focusing on. BPAC had discussions about two projects that Mr. Matonti would like to bring to the attention of the MPO Board: Naples Park Sidewalks and the Golden Gate Parkway Trail Crossing at Freedom Park.

- Naples Park Sidewalks – There is agreement amongst BPAC members, including some who live in Naples Park and some that do not, that sidewalks are needed in Naples Park. BPAC would like to see the project proceed and would like it kept on BPAC’s priority list. **Mr. Matonti** shared that when he first moved to the area, he was looking for a home in Naples Park, but his mother-in-law at the time did not want him to move there because there were no sidewalks for her grandchildren.
- Golden Gate Parkway Trail Crossing at Freedom Park – This item, with particular emphasis on the bridge, was removed from the priority list. The bridge would be a very expensive project; there is not presently a planning or feasibility study. There are a few BPAC members that reside in the City of Naples and they would like the project to be looked at again from an at-grade perspective. **Mr. Matonti** indicated there are a few projects in the City of Naples where there is an at-grade crossing at U.S. 41, and the BPAC members would like to see if that would be more viable at the Golden Gate Parkway crossing.
- BPAC received a bicycle/pedestrian update from the City of Naples. One item that was discussed were roundabouts, particularly in certain areas in the City of Naples west of U.S. 41 where there are existing street lights. **Mr. Matonti** is aware of negative comments about roundabouts but, in his experience, he feels that: they are safer (there are no head-on collisions, less intensity of collisions and less deaths); they provide for a continuous flow of traffic; and they provide beautification (reducing amount of asphalt in the location, landscaping features, *et cetera*). **Mr. Matonti** expressed that roundabouts are a great solution for certain areas.
- **Mr. Matonti** indicated BPAC’s next meeting is in two weeks and he could answer any questions the MPO Board may have.

Chair Perry asked **Ms. McLaughlin** if the Golden Gate Parkway crossing were to be reviewed, with the bridge taken off the list, if there is something that can be done to evaluate whether there is some feasible way to do it. **Ms. McLaughlin** proposed (as she did to BPAC) that the MPO coordinate with Collier County, since it is a County road, and see if there can be an inexpensive look at the feasibility of a crossing in that area. It is not the MPO’s position that almost \$1 million be spent doing a feasibility study on the bridge and at-grade. **Ms. McLaughlin** feels that some sort of reasonable first look may be achievable to have the facts available. **Ms. McLaughlin** had also told BPAC that the next time there is a call for projects, if there is County support to move forward, then it could get back on the list. **Chair Perry** asked **Ms. McLaughlin** if she needs direction from the MPO Board to look into the feasibility of a surface crossing. **Ms. McLaughlin** stated she always likes to hear the MPO Board’s opinions, but at this point, it is simply information gathering she can do to serve both the MPO Board and BPAC. **Chair Perry** commented that he would personally like to see the issue reviewed and that it is a very complicated intersection with a continuous turn lane, which is indicative of the problem: a pedestrian trying to cross the street would have to cross several lanes and then a continuous turn lane where vehicles do not stop. **Chair Perry** suggested to **Ms. McLaughlin** that anything she could do that is financially feasible to look into the issue would be appreciated.

Commissioner Solis stated that the information related to roundabouts in relation to vehicles overwhelming shows that roundabouts are safer and reduces crashes and fatalities, but wanted to know the statistics and data related to bicycle traffic. **Secretary Nandam** responded that studies show roundabouts improve safety for bicycles and pedestrians (and all modes). When looking at intersections, FDOT uses the ICE (Intersection Control Evaluation) methodology, which evaluates the intersection for the appropriate solution. As it relates to cyclists, roundabouts typically have an option for the cyclist to either merge into

the traffic traversing the roundabout or use a ramp to the crosswalk.

7.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)

7.D.1. Congestion Management Committee Chair Report

Ms. McLaughlin stated that CMC did not meet last month. (CMC meets bi-monthly).

7.E. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

7.E.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report

Ms. McLaughlin stated that LCB did meet and went through presentations and gave input, and she anticipates having a written report by the next MPO Board meeting.

8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)

8.A. Approve Amendment 1 Incorporating the Roll Forward Report in the FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Authorizing Resolution

Ms. McLaughlin explained that the Roll Forward Report is produced by FDOT every year over the summer months after the MPO Board has adopted its Transportation Information Plan (TIP). The first meeting of the year after the summer, in September, the MPO generally brings it before the MPO Board as an amendment to the TIP. The amendment covers the time period between June 30 (the end of the State Fiscal Year) and September 30 (the end of the Federal Fiscal Year). Rolling the projects forward helps to cover the gap between State and Federal fiscal years. With respect to public involvement, the MPO did comply with the public involvement requirements, however no comments were received. On committee recommendations, the TAC and CAC voted to endorse the Amendment at their meetings on August 22. Both committees requested that FDOT confirm there are no additional transit projects to be included and FDOT has confirmed that there are no additional transit projects to include. Staff requested that the MPO Board approve the Amendment.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve Amendment I Incorporating the Roll Forward Report in the FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Authorizing Resolution and Council Member Folley seconded. Roll call vote. Passed unanimously.

*Commissioner Taylor - Yes
Council Member Folley - Yes
Commissioner McDaniel – Yes
Commissioner LoCastro – Yes
MPO Chair Perry – Yes
Commissioner Saunders – Yes
Council Member Blankenship – Yes
Council Member Pernas – Yes
Commissioner Solis – Yes*

9. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)

9.A. Approve Amendment #1 to FY 22/23-23/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Authorizing Resolution

Ms. McLaughlin stated if the MPO Board has questions that exceed her knowledge of the issue, Ms. Otero was available via Zoom. **Ms. McLaughlin** explained the Amendment is necessary to recognize and add a new study: the Zero Emission Transition Plan that Collier County’s Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) is required to complete. It will add FTA Section 5307 funds to the UPWP for the study and reallocates FTA Section 5305(d) funds to pay for the remainder of the study. Other changes include listed, revised, executed agreements, updated soft match to recognize funding, and updated summary tables. The public comment period on the proposed Amendment ends with the MPO Board meeting today (September 9) and no public comment has been received. TAC and CAC voted to endorse the Amendment at their meetings on August 22. Staff requested that the MPO Board approve the Amendment.

Commissioner Taylor moved to approve Amendment #1 to FY 22/23-23/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Authorizing Resolution and Commissioner Saunders seconded.

Council Member Folley asked what legislation requires a zero emissions plan. **Ms. Arnold** responded that it is a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirement. The FTA requires jurisdictions to develop a plan to lower/zero out their emissions. The plan will contemplate electric vehicles, alternative fuel and mode options, and other items. Once the study is completed, it will provide a timeframe for transitioning to zero emissions. Our jurisdiction will then be eligible for grant funds. Without the study to show that we are progressing toward zero emissions, we would not be eligible for the available grants. **Council Member Folley** asked for clarification of “emissions” and whether it includes carbon dioxide. **Ms. Arnold** responded that it does and includes other types of emissions. **Council Member Folley** asked if there is going to be a study of the impact of electric vehicles on the grid. **Ms. Arnold** responded that the issue would be looked into in connection with the study. **Commissioner McDaniel** requested that a cost benefit analysis comparison, with the different alternative fuel methods, be conducted when the study moves forward, and further expressed that such an analysis is imperative. **Ms. Arnold** responded that it is a component of the study.

Passed 8:1 with Council Member Folley dissenting.

9.B. Approve Amendment #1 to the Public Transit Grant Agreement (G2594)

Ms. McLaughlin explained that the Amendment is a companion action to the previous amendment the MPO Board just approved and requested that the Amendment be approved as well. The purpose of the Amendment is to amend the Public Transit Grant Agreement (PTGA) for FTA Section 5305(d), transit planning funds. Specifically, the Amendment amends the PTGA to incorporate the newly amended UPWP as Exhibit A. Because it is administrative in nature, it was not presented to the Advisory Committees. Staff requested that the Amendment to the PTGA be approved.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve Amendment #1 to the Public Transit Grant Agreement (G2594) and Commissioner Taylor seconded. Passed 8:1 with Council Member Folley dissenting.

9.C. Approve Amendment #3 to the Public Transit Grant Agreement (G1V40)

Ms. McLaughlin explained the Amendment is also a companion action to the prior amendment. Staff was required to prepare two separate amendments to the PTGA. The Amendment amends the PTGA to incorporate the newly amended UPWP as Exhibit A, but addresses different fiscal years (2022/2023 and 2023/2024) from the previous amendment. **Commissioner Taylor** asked whether it is simply a scrivener's correction and **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that it is a portion of all the amendments needed for adding the study and extending the use of the FTA Section 5305 funds.

Passed 8:1 with Council Member Folley dissenting.

Commissioner LoCastro expressed that he wanted to understand Council Member Folley's position and inquired what was causing him concern. **Council Member Folley** responded that he is concerned about a push toward electrification and thinks it is unsustainable at this time and there is no grid capacity to meet the requirements being imposed by the federal government. **Commissioner LoCastro** indicated that others share Council Member Folley's concerns but just because something passes, it does not mean there are no loose ends, but there is an advantage to voting in favor on this issue.

Chair Perry asked for confirmation that this is just a study at this time and nothing is going to be done until the study is completed. **Ms. McLaughlin** confirmed it is only a study and the first stage. **Commissioner McDaniel** commented that not having the study creates issues with future grant applications and grant money from the federal government. Having the study and the cost benefit analysis will then allow the MPO Board to decide on the viability of alternative methodologies to better serve the community. **Council Member Folley** stated that with respect to the cost benefit analysis, it would be good to understand how electrification compares with the status quo in terms of continuing to use fossil fuels and that should be part of the analysis.

9.D. Approve Amendment #4 to the Public Transit Grant Agreement (G1J00)

Ms. McLaughlin explained the Amendment is an additional and different numbered amendment to the PTGA, although it sounds similar to what was just approved. The Amendment is required to extend the completion date for the use of the FTA Section 5305 funds from the original expiration date of December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2023. In essence, an extension of the viability of the funds is being requested.

Council Member Pernas moved to approve Amendment #4 to the Public Transit Grant Agreement (G1J00) and Commissioner Taylor seconded. Passed 8:1 with Council Member Folley dissenting.

9.E. Approval of Appointment of Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Member to Represent City of Naples

Ms. McLaughlin explained the appointment is to fill a vacancy for a representative of the City of Naples. According to the MPO Bylaws, in the event of a vacancy an MPO Board member is to nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy. Council Member Blankenship nominated Stephen Spahr. Mr. Spahr submitted an application and resume to the City Clerk's office. The Naples City Council has a process by which they ratify the appointment prior to submitting it to the MPO Board. With full council support, staff recommends approval of the appointment of Mr. Spahr to the CAC.

Council Member Blankenship moved to approve the CAC appointment and Commissioner Taylor seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.F. Approve Two Re-appointments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Mr. Philips explained the request is to re-appoint Ms. Patty Huff and Ms. Kim Jacob to BPAC. They have served on BPAC for the last two years. Ms. Huff is a resident of Everglades City, an active member in BPAC and in the cycling community, and a volunteer on the U.S. Bike Route 15 project. Ms. Jacob has been a resident of Naples since 2004, is also a very active member of BPAC and in the community, and active in the projects related to Naples Park. Staff is recommending the re-appointment of Ms. Huff and Ms. Jacob to BPAC.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the two re-appointments to BPAC and Commissioner LoCastro seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.G. Appointment of Two New Members to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Mr. Philips explained that some membership openings in BPAC occurred this year. Michelle Sproviero contacted the MPO expressing interest in becoming a member of BPAC. Ms. Sproviero resides in an unincorporated area of Collier County, is a realtor, and is an active user of local recreational trails. The second applicant is Carey Komorny. Ms. Komorny was recommended to apply by another BPAC member. Ms. Komorny has been a resident of Collier County since 1979 and is an active cyclist and runner. One of her primary interests in being a member of BPAC is to address safety needs. Staff is recommending the appointment of Ms. Sproviero and Ms. Komorny to BPAC.

Commissioner Saunders moved to approve the appointment of the two new members to BPAC and Commissioner Solis seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.H. Approve Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application

Ms. McLaughlin explained that SS4A is a competitive grant created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL). The purpose of the grants is to improve roadway safety by reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through safety action plan development and implementation. Two types of grants are available: action plan grant (must be completed first) and implementation grant. Staff suggests that the MPO apply for the action plan grant. By applying for it, if granted, it would make the entire jurisdiction eligible to apply for implementation grants, which is where the major funding is, and would affect every member entity that is part of the MPO. The safety action plan, under the new federal requirements, is similar but slightly different from the Local Roads Safety Plan adopted in May, 2021. Crash data analysis is both required and useful for updating the data used in 2021 as the data was several years old at that time. Consideration of equity is still a major factor in the new federal law and strategies and project selection are factors and all need updating. The new legislation introduced a requirement for local government to commit, by resolution, to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries and a timeline for eliminating them by establishing an aggressive target date. The program also requires the establishment of a guiding task force or committee to develop the plan and oversee the implementation. Staff is exploring options; there are many MPO committees that need to be involved, such as the CMC, BPAC, TAC, and CAC. Ms. McLaughlin has been reaching out the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to inquire about the possibility of working with them because they include FDOT, local law enforcement and Emergency Medical Services (for treatment after accidents). The CTST actions would need to be driven by developing the safety action plan and implementing it. The program also requires robust engagement with the public

and stakeholders. The Local Roads Safety Plan was developed during COVID, which impacted public involvement in developing the plan. More in-person outreach can be done now (a good way to reach disadvantaged communities). The U.S. DOT anticipates the minimum request will be for \$200,000; there is a required twenty percent match. The \$200,000 is a reasonable ballpark number based on what it cost to develop the Local Roads Safety Plan, keeping the need for conducting additional public outreach in mind, A \$200,000 grant requires a \$50,000 match for a total of \$250,000. FDOT has conveyed that they will not supply the match. Staff reviewed the MPO's budget in terms of what is remaining in local funds, and feels comfortable requesting the MPO Board to approve \$10,000 out of local funds. The MPO reached out to colleagues - Collier County staff - to request assistance for the remaining \$40,000 of the match. That request will go before the BCC on September 13. Staff is requesting approval to proceed contingent upon the BCC's approval. The deadline for applying for SS4A is September 15.

Commissioner Solis requested clarification on where the \$40,000 match funds would be coming from. **Ms. Scott** responded that she did not have that specific information on hand but would follow up, but she did know that it would be coming from the funds that are typically allocated to transportation planning and transportation management feels comfortable taking it out of their budget; funds were not being requested from the BCC, they were being taken out of something that would have already been budgeted.

Council Member Blankenship inquired as to the timeline of when the grant would be received, the consulting study completed, and the implementation grant be applied for. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that the timeline is not yet clear, but her current understanding is decisions about who will be receiving the grants will be made in Spring of 2023, but it could take up to a year for the paperwork to be processed by the federal government. It could possibly be during fiscal year 2024 before the consulting study gets started. If the application gets expedited, she will let the MPO Board know. The study itself may take just over one year. **Council Member Blankenship** commented that it could be years before funding is obtained and **Ms. McLaughlin** agreed and emphasized this is the first opportunity under the new program. **Commissioner McDaniel** commented that without this, we would not be able to apply for other grant funds and the length of time grant funding can take is astounding. He would rather not have a new committee formed and would prefer the Community Traffic Safety Team, which encompasses FDOT, Collier County staff, the Sheriff's Department, and the community. He previously served on that committee and they were very effective.

Commissioner Taylor, in reviewing the map attached to the proposed SS4A Grant Application (Appendix 9.H.1 to the Agenda), commented that the roads on the map do go into Marco Island but do not go into the City of Naples. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that the roads do go into the City of Naples and that a functional classification map was also attached to the Application. **Commissioner Taylor** requested clarification on whether it includes U.S. 41 and its ancillary roads or just U.S. 41, and whether it includes only major roads as it pertains to the City of Naples. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that the map includes only major roads, but it is unclear at this time what roads will be impacted until the updated crash data is analyzed. In past analyses, the fatalities and serious injuries tend to happen on major roads. It is possible, if there is a cluster of fatalities/serious injuries on a local residential road, that such road would be considered as well. **Commissioner Taylor** asked whether the cities that are weighing in will be assessing their internal roads. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that the MPO will compile the information for the local governments, their citizens, and their technical staff, for their review and comment.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application and Commissioner Taylor seconded. Passed unanimously.

10. PRESENTATIONS (MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION)

None.

11. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

11.A. Replacement Page for FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. McLaughlin explained that shortly after the MPO Board adopted the new TIP, staff discovered that there was a scrivener's error on the funding amount. She coordinated with Ms. Peters about treating the error as a scrivener's error and replacing the page with the correct page. **Chair Perry** asked whether any action needed to be taken by the MPO Board on the issue and **Ms. McLaughlin** confirmed that no action was needed.

11.B. Revised 2022 MPO Calendar – Lee/Collier Joint Meeting Schedule

Ms. McLaughlin explained that the 2022 MPO calendar needed to be revised to show the coordination with Lee MPO to set dates for joint meetings. A joint TAC meeting and joint CAC meeting has been scheduled for October 24, 2022, and is likely to take place at FDOT's District 1 Southwest Area Office. November 18, 2022, is proposed as the date for a joint meeting between Collier MPO and Lee MPO with the location likely to be at the North Collier Regional Park, Exhibit Hall, in Naples, beginning at 9:30 a.m. **Ms. McLaughlin** further indicated that Commissioner McDaniel will not be able to attend the November 18 meeting as he will be out-of-state. **Commissioner McDaniel** expressed his support for holding the meeting in his absence.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Perry requested Ms. Scott come to the floor prior to addressing any member comments. **Chair Perry** asked Ms. Scott if she had any comments on the Golden Gate Parkway/Goodlette-Frank Road intersection issue discussed earlier in the meeting. **Ms. Scott** responded that Collier County previously did a study on a crossing between the two parks along Golden Gate Parkway. As part of the study, at-grade options were reviewed. Golden Gate Parkway jogs in that area and from a sight distance standpoint, staff and consultants did not feel comfortable with an at-grade crossing. The concept of an underpass was also evaluated. An overpass seemed to be the best option. **Ms. Scott** offered to provide the previous feasibility study to the MPO Board and BPAC. **Chair Perry** inquired when the study was done and **Ms. Scott** estimated it was done during 2014/2015. **Chair Perry** requested that Ms. Scott provide the study to Ms. McLaughlin and that Ms. McLaughlin distribute it. **Commissioner Saunders** asked what the cost estimate is for an overpass and **Ms. Scott's** recollection was that it was \$5 million at the time, which was prior to the rapid increase in construction costs. **Commissioner Saunders** commented that the cost might be over forty percent greater now.

Ms. Scott responded to Commissioner Solis' prior question regarding where the \$40,000 in match funds will be coming from (*see* Item 9.H. above): the general fund.

Chair Perry asked if there were any member comments.

Council Member Pernas commented that he has heard conflicting dates on when County Road 29 resurfacing and sidewalk projects are going to commence and requested clarification. There are some upcoming Centennial celebrations and he hopes that someone can provide an update soon.

Commissioner McDaniel commented that he supports the BPAC Chair's advocacy for roundabouts, stating he was not initially happy about the roundabout at SR 29 and SR 82, lobbied against it, and was concerned about the impact on the freight industry, but that fatalities have ceased and the

accidents are nominal. He thanked FDOT, Commissioner Taylor, and Collier County for the intersection improvement. He believes the roundabout is functional and works well. He also thanked FDOT for the needed traffic light at Westclox Road and SR 29, indicating there were fatalities at that intersection.

Commissioner LoCastro commended Ms. Avola-Brown for her hard work and both Ms. Avola-Brown and Representative Melo for working together. Ms. Avola-Brown had been meeting regularly with Representative Melo to encourage support for the Paradise Coast Trail (PCT). **Commissioner LoCastro** stated that Representative Melo sponsored a \$250,000 grant application to offset the cost of PCT and he was awaiting news of the outcome. **Commissioner LoCastro** fully supports the PCT project and believes it will be a great addition to the community and welcomes any feedback on the project. Pinellas County did a similar project and it is very popular.

Council Member Blankenship commented that the update about PCT was great news and his experience with similar trails in other parts of the country is that they have been wonderful additions to the communities. Senator Passidomo came to the last City Council meeting and discussed the recent legislature actions and mentioned a new program for developing and constructing bike paths in the interior part of the State. If it comes to fruition, it may be something the PCT can be connected to as well.

Commissioner Solis asked Mr. Matonti about the status of Rails for Trails in Lee County. **Mr. Matonti** responded that one issue is access; they are only corridors at this point. BPAC's preferred route to get to Old U.S. 41 seems to be the Veterans extension (past the new high school). A study is being conducted on Old U.S. 41 now and there are three alternatives. It appears that Seminole Railway is unwilling to sell the Right-of-Way and Rails for Trails is only a planning study at this point and the project would be expensive.

Commissioner Solis asked Secretary Nandam about the status of the autonomous vehicle test sites in Gainesville and Lake Nona, Orlando, specifically regarding whether people are utilizing it. **Secretary Nandam** responded that FDOT will gather the data and provide it and though he does not have the data, he heard they were successful. **Secretary Nandam** further stated that when a master plan study was done in his district, The City of Fort Myers and LeeTran were the first to want the autonomous shuttle program. Developing a concept and get funding for implementation is being evaluated. **Commissioner Solis** encouraged the MPO to seriously consider the program and commented that the program in Gainesville is worth looking at.

Commissioner Taylor indicated she has seen some cars, with California license plates, that appear to be autonomous in Naples and asked Secretary Nandam if it is possible. **Secretary Nandam** responded that is possible as there are several companies testing autonomous cars and retrofits to existing cars that would make them autonomous.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

13.A. Next Meeting Date - October 14, 2022 - 9:30 a.m., Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112.

14. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:43 a.m.