It’s Not Too Late to Register for the Iron Joe Turkey Ride!

The Naples Pathways Coalition is hosting its 18th Annual Iron Joe Turkey Ride and Walk on November 27th - the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Iron Joe is none other than Joe Bonness, a long– standing member and former Chair of the MPO’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

[runsignup.com](https://runsignup.com)

The MPO Welcomes Two New Staff Members,

Dusty May Siegler joined the MPO staff on August 29th as our new Administrative Assistant. Dusty brings over 17 years paralegal experience to the position.

Sean Kingston joined us on November 1st, having worked for the Collier County Growth Management Department for 5 years as a planner in zoning, permitting and floodplain management.

And Bids a Fond Farewell to Brandy Otero!

Ms. Brandy Otero received well-deserved recognition at the October Board meeting for her many years of dedicated service to the MPO. Brandy is now the Grants Supervisor for the County’s Transportation Management Services Department. Her office is in the same building and right around the corner from the MPO. She remains involved in advising the MPO regarding grant requirements in her new role, and for that we are fortunate.

Pedestrian Safety Improvements on US 41/Tamiami Trail

FDOT is installing mid-block crossings and pedestrian signals and repaving US 41/Tamiami Trail between Davis Blvd. and Courthouse Shadows. The pedestrian safety improvements result from a 2015 Bicycle/Pedestrian Road Safety Audit FDOT conducted at the MPO’s request due to the high number of bike/ped crashes resulting in severe injuries and fatalities. The audit team noted that despite the high level pedestrian/bicycle activity, motorists were driving aggressively with little regard or awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists. Another concern was the number of pedestrians observed crossing at unsignalized, midblock locations, particularly at night.

Blue Zones Encourages Parents to Be The Example When It Comes to Wearing Helmets

According to the Blue Zones Project of Southwest Florida, children aged 11-14 are the least likely to wear their helmets when parents aren’t around. 80% of polled students who wore their helmets did so because their parents always do. The Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute provides [tips on getting kids to wear helmets](https://www.bikehelmet.org/tips-for-parents/).