

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the  
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 23, 2023, 9:30 a.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

**Ms. Lantz** called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Ms. Siegler** called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

**TAC Members Present**

Lorraine Lantz, Chair, Collier County Transportation Planning

Allison Bickett, Vice Chair, City of Naples

Dan Hall, Collier County Traffic Operations

Dave Rivera, City of Naples

Don Scott, Lee MPO

Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Michelle Arnold, Director, Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Division

Tim Brock, Everglades City

Ute Vandersluis, Naples Airport Authority

**TAC Members Absent**

Andrew Bennett, Collier County Airport Authority

Daniel Smith, City of Marco Island

John Kasten, Collier County School Board

Justin Martin, City of Marco Island

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Dusty Siegler, Administrative Assistant

**Others Present**

Bill Howell, HW Lochner

Nicole Harris, Stantec, FDOT Interstate Program Office

Steve Ludwinski, The Corradino Group

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

**Ms. McLaughlin** stated that, although there were no changes to the agenda, there were a few distribution items: a 2020 census map provided by Mr. Scott for Item 7.D., and a revised Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update Scope of Work for Item 7.C.

*Mr. Scott moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Brock seconded. Carried unanimously.*

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

*Ms. Arnold moved to approve the November 28, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Brock seconded. Carried unanimously.*

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

None.

6. **Agency Updates**

**A. FDOT**

**Ms. McLaughlin** indicated that Ms. Victoria Peters was unable to make it to the meeting. Ms. Peters wanted to inform everyone about the public outreach for the Interstate 75 South Corridor Master Plan. There will be a Live Q&A Webinar on February 15, beginning at 6 p.m., and an in-person public meeting on February 16, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the North Collier Regional Park, Exhibit Hall.

**B. MPO Executive Director**

**Ms. McLaughlin** indicated she sent an email out on January 20 to Marco Island, the City of Naples and Collier County regarding 2023 being the year to bring planning, safety and bridge projects forward to the MPO Board to be prioritized for funding in approximately 2029. Ideally, the MPO would have forwarded the information on sooner. Ms. McLaughlin had not previously mentioned bridge and safety, but recently found out that the County had updated its East of 951 Bridge Study. The SU funding is for new bridges. If there is a safety related project, the MPO Board includes allocation of some of the SU funds to safety. Ms. McLaughlin would be happy to assist anyone who wants to bring a project forward. FDOT's District 1 application form would be used. The last safety project funded with SU funds was improving the bend on Corkscrew Road. **Mr. Brock** asked when the application is due, and **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that she would forward on the information and thinks the deadline is May 1. Projects would go forward to the MPO Board in June.

**Ms. McLaughlin** suggested the potential to request FDOT to do a road safety audit on a segment of road if there is a concern regarding safety. **Mr. Brock** and **Ms. McLaughlin** discussed that various agency staff working together could maximize the use of available funding to benefit local road safety projects.

## 7. Committee Action

### A. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

**Ms. Lantz** reiterated (from the last meeting) that she is currently the Interim Planning Manager. If Ms. Lantz's interim role becomes permanent, she intends to delegate attendance at future TAC meetings. Ms. Lantz noted that the MPO Board, at its last meeting, commented that the Board would like the MPO's committee chairs to attend the MPO Board meetings to provide verbal chair reports. Ms. Lantz had always attended the meetings virtually but had not been asked any questions by the Board.

*Ms. Arnold moved to elect Ms. Lantz as Chair and Ms. Bickett as Vice-Chair. Mr. Rivera seconded. Carried unanimously.*

### B. Endorse Automated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Scope

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that Capital Consulting Solutions' Scope of Work focuses on automating the TIP project data from the format it is received from FHWA (typically a spreadsheet) to a format/database that is more user-friendly, and providing an interactive, searchable map. Ms. McLaughlin also intends to get staff training and standard operating procedures from Capital so that MPO Staff can potentially manage the database in the future and perform the work in-house. Capital is one of the vendors under the MPO's General Planning Contract. The proposed fee is \$24,744, for which there is sufficient funding in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the task. (FDOT and FHWA approved Amendment 2 to the UPWP.) Ms. McLaughlin is endeavoring to get the work approved as soon as practicable to stay on schedule and anticipates providing a proposed work order to the MPO Board at its February meeting.

*Mr. Scott moved to endorse the Automated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Scope. Ms. Bickett seconded. Carried unanimously.*

### C. Endorse Scope of Services for Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

**Ms. McLaughlin** indicated that the handout provided at the beginning of the meeting is a revised Scope of Services for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) Update, which includes the revisions suggested by BPAC at their January 17 meeting. The agenda packet for the TAC meeting had already been finalized prior to BPAC's meeting.

The BPMP Update is relevant to the forthcoming 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan update. The Update would be under the MPO's General Planning Contract. Ms. McLaughlin explained how the MPO had worked with BPAC to develop the proposed Scope.

The MPO Board, at its last meeting on December 9, had comments and suggestions regarding the Update in response to the BPAC Chair's verbal report at the meeting. Commissioner McDaniel commented that he would like to see more reliance on BPAC, as opposed to consultants, in preparing the Update, and that outreach to teach bike/ped safety at elementary schools should be included. Commissioner Kowal

requested that the County Attorney prepare a draft ordinance regarding cyclists riding on sidewalks against traffic being unsafe. Commissioner Hall expressed concern regarding safety issues presented by electric bicycles. The MPO Board voted to have BPAC review and comment on the draft ordinance; the draft may be presented to BPAC at their February meeting.

[The group discussed whether there are comparable existing ordinances, the challenges existing infrastructure would present, varying instances that would need to be considered, and various areas where pedestrian/cyclist safety is an issue.]

**Ms. Lantz** inquired whether the draft ordinance would be presented to TAC for review and comment. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that MPO Staff intends to present the draft ordinance to BPAC first, and then likely to TAC and CAC. Ultimately, any ordinance would be adopted by the BCC and not the MPO Board.

BPAC's revisions to the draft Scope included ways to target specific stakeholders, partnering with local community groups/nonprofits, participating in community events, and providing multi-lingual handouts and translation services. With respect to traditional media/communications, BPAC spent time contemplating print media, advertising, getting reporters interested in the topic, radio and television. A scrivener's error in referencing U.S. Bike Route 15 was corrected. One BPAC member raised the issue of considering new policies to achieve greater connectivity and smaller roads. Many plans/policies were implemented since 2019 (including the Paradise Coast Trail Feasibility Study, which includes SUN Trail alignment, and the master plans for the City of Naples, Marco Island and Everglades City), which are incorporated in the draft Scope. Safety is also a major component. BPAC also wanted cost to be considered in the evaluation criteria. Given that so much new information has come out regarding bicycle/pedestrian plans, Ms. McLaughlin thinks that more focus can be given to standalone projects and regional priorities to support applications for things like recreational trail applications.

The criteria for the 2019 BPMP Update was very constrained and also provided that the County would submit a project for each commission district, and two projects for the City of Naples, Marco Island and one for Everglades City. MPO Staff does not intend to limit the number of projects that could be submitted for the upcoming Update. **Mr. Scott** commented that the number of criteria on the proposed Scope may not simplify the process. **Mr. Hall** also indicated that there were too many criteria. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that there were three factors considered in the last Update, and BPAC felt that the criteria needed to be expanded.

**Ms. Lantz** asked if anyone had any additions or revisions to the draft Scope and asked what the next steps would be. **Ms. McLaughlin** indicated that FDOT and FHWA need to approve the Scope and a work order would need to be approved by the MPO Board. The consultant may provide input that slightly modifies the Scope. There may be changes over time once we reach the contracting stage. Ms. McLaughlin requested that any proposed revisions, additions or comments be provided.

**Ms. Lantz** commented that it might be better if the communications-traditional media section of the Scope provided "as appropriate" instead of "print, radio, tv." **Mr. Hall** reiterated that the Scope contains too many criteria. **Mr. Scott** indicated that the criteria/scoring matrix is supposed to simplify the process,

but it appears it may complicate it. **Ms. McLaughlin** commented that BPAC wanted more criteria options. **Ms. Lantz** indicated that the consultant will likely create a matrix for the criteria, and **Ms. McLaughlin** added that the criteria will ultimately become something usable. **Ms. Lantz** noted the need to have criteria streamlined and suggested the use of tiers. **Mr. Scott** agreed and suggested that the Scope be modified to group/tier the criteria for simplification. **Ms. Arnold, Ms. Bickett and Mr. Hall** agreed. **Mr. Hall** mentioned that safety should be weighted with more priority than the other criteria.

**Ms. Lantz** emphasized that the concept of the Scope was before TAC for endorsement; the consultant would ultimately likely modify the Scope. The MPO seeks approval of the Scope for purposes of contracting with the consultant. **Ms. McLaughlin** indicated that she would modify the Scope to include language recommending tiered priorities and grouping of the criteria. Ultimately, it is part of the typical process for the consultant to bring their work before TAC and CAC for comments; the Scope is the starting point. Some of the language included in the criteria is with an eye towards existing discretionary grants. **Mr. Hall** suggested that language be added indicating that safety should be weighted two to three times more than the other criteria.

*Ms. Lantz moved to endorse the Scope of Services for Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update based upon the comments discussed by TAC, including the potential consolidation/grouping of evaluation criteria as appropriate. Mr. Hall seconded. Carried unanimously.*

#### **D. Clear and Block Date for Tentative Joint Meeting with Lee County TAC**

**Mr. Scott** indicated that the census map provided at the meeting (the second handout) relates to the scheduling of joint meetings with TAC, CAC and the MPO Board. By way of background, there was originally a Naples urbanized area and a Fort Myers urbanized area. We then had the Cape Coral urbanized area and the Bonita Springs urbanized area. The new urban areas from the just released 2020 census map combine Bonita and Estero (Naples urbanized area is no longer used). In 2010, of the approximate 310,000 population in the Bonita Springs area at that time, approximately 50,000 were in Lee County. With the new census map, by preliminary calculations, there are approximately 108,000 in Lee County. More parts of Lee County have been designated as urban areas of Collier County for purposes of grant funds. This means that Collier County would be receiving certain grant funds for certain urban areas that are in Lee County. When the issue was addressed in 2010 (when there was less designated Collier urban area in Lee County), one suggestion was that Collier and Lee Counties combine the funding. The MPO Boards did not want to combine. **Mr. Scott's** understanding of the options at this time are: (i) Collier and Lee MPOs combine; (ii) the affected population in the Estero/Bonita Springs urban area deals with Collier MPO; or (iii) determine how to get the funding allocations broken down by county lines (there is a large area on the East Coast that has done this). It is not clear from the census map what the actual populations are.

A joint meeting in October would not work because the planning grant fund allocations must be completed before October. There may need to be a joint meeting in the summer instead. **Mr. Scott** anticipates knowing more after the MPOAC meeting at the end of January. **Ms. McLaughlin** and **Mr. Scott** discussed how often the MPO Boards meet in the summer. Collier MPO Board meets in May and June and has July and August off. Lee MPO Board typically takes July off. The MPOs are typically

working on the updated UPWP in June. There is the potential for a joint MPO meeting in June and joint TAC and CAC meetings in May.

**Ms. Lantz** indicated that the scheduling of a joint meeting will need to be addressed at a future meeting.

## **8. Reports and Presentation (May Require Committee Action)**

### **A. South Corridor Master Plan - FDOT Interstate Program Office**

**Ms. Harris** provided a presentation regarding FDOT's South Corridor Master Plan. The conditions of I-75, origin and destination data, and how people use I-75 were analyzed. The preliminary list of proposed projects includes interchange improvements and configurations and mainline segment improvements from Collier Boulevard in Naples to Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers. On the southern part of the south corridor (from Collier Boulevard to Corkscrew Road), there is a need for general use lane(s) and an auxiliary lane. On the northern part of the south corridor (from Corkscrew Road to Bayshore Road), there is a need for managed lanes - use lanes, auxiliary lanes, and lanes that are separated from the other traffic. The local lanes should ease congestion for those who use the Interstate to travel locally. The Plan does not contemplate tolling for the local lanes; a separate study is being conducted regarding tolling. The width between the northbound and southbound lanes would be a least 40 feet. There has not yet been a decision regarding whether there would be a barrier or a buffer between the local lanes and the thru lanes. The Plan includes the ability to access the thru lanes from the local lanes at interchanges.

Public meetings have been scheduled by FDOT: a live online session and Q&A will take place on February 15 and an in-person meeting will take place on February 16 at North Collier Regional Park. FDOT hopes to finalize the Master Plan by summer. From there, an implementation plan will prioritize the projects along all of I-75 and I-4 in District 1. **Mr. Brock** asked if the projects are funded, and **Ms. Harris** responded that she does not think they are currently in the five-year plan. Funding will be further addressed during the implementation and prioritization phases. **Mr. Howell** added that the preliminary cost estimate for the South Corridor work is \$8 billion. **Mr. Scott** asked for confirmation that the planned width between north/south lanes would be 40 feet in all areas, and **Ms. Harris** confirmed that it would be. **Mr. Brock** asked whether the plan is to purchase right-of-way along the existing corridor. **Ms. Harris** responded that additional right-of-way may be needed at the interchanges. The existing right-of-way along the South Corridor varies; there is enough in some locations but not in others. The approach is to complete an interchange and mainline segment piece by piece. The potential for direct connects as an express lane alternative was evaluated, but the cost and the required infrastructure would be much greater.

## **9. Member Comments**

**Mr. Brock** reminded everyone that the Everglades City Seafood Festival is from February 17 through February 19. The Marshall Tucker Band will be a featured performer.

**Ms. Lantz** indicated she would attend the next MPO Board meeting on TAC's behalf.

**10. Distribution Items**

None.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

*February 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. Main Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.*

**12. Adjournment**

**Ms. Lantz** adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.