

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Board of County Commission Chambers  
Collier County Government Center  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor  
Naples, FL 34112  
February 10, 2023  
9:30 a.m.**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Folley called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Present (in BCC Chambers)**

Council Member Greg Folley, City of Marco Island, Vice-Chair/Successor Chair  
Commissioner Chris Hall, Collier County BCC District 2, Successor Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Burt Saunders, Collier County BCC District 3  
Commissioner Dan Kowal, Collier County BCC District 4  
Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., Collier County BCC District 5  
Council Member Tony Pernas, Everglades City  
Council Member Ted Blankenship, City of Naples

**Members Present Virtually Via Zoom**

Council Member Paul Perry, City of Naples, Chair

**Members Absent**

Commissioner Rick LoCastro, Collier County BCC District 1

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director  
Sean Kingston, Principal Planner  
Dusty Siegler, Administrative Assistant

**FDOT**

John Kubler, Interim FDOT Secretary  
Joshua Jester, FDOT Project Manager  
Keith Robbins, District 1 Safety Administrator  
Nicole Harris, Stantec, FDOT Interstate Program Office  
Wayne Gaither, Manager, District 1 Southwest Area Office (SWAO)  
Victoria Peters, Community Liaison

**Others Present**

Anthony Matonti, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair  
Bill Howell, HW Lochner  
Don Scott, Lee MPO  
Josephine Medina  
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning, Technical Advisory Committee Chair

Michelle Arnold, Director, Collier County Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement  
Michelle Avola-Brown, Executive Director, Naples Pathways Coalition  
Pierre-Marie Beauvoir, Traffic Management Center, Congestion Management Committee Chair  
Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney  
Trinity Scott, Department Head, Transportation Management Services Department  
Troy Miller, Manager, BCC Television Operations

**Other Zoom Participants**

Elaine Middelstaedt, Citizens Advisory Committee Chair

*Commissioner Saunders moved to allow Chair Perry to participate via Zoom and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chair Folley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**4.A. December 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

*Council Member Pernas moved to approve the Agenda and Previous Minutes and Commissioner Saunders seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**6. AGENCY UPDATES**

**6.A. FDOT**

**Mr. Kubler**, Director of Transportation Development, introduced himself and stated that he is the District I Interim Secretary. Mr. L.K. Nandam is serving as the Interim Secretary for Strategic Development for a few months but will return as District I Secretary.

**Mr. Gaither** provided a presentation regarding the Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative, particularly as it relates to Collier County. The legislative Initiative is to expedite twenty major interstate and arterial projects across the State over the next four years. Legislative approval is still required. FDOT is proposing dedicating \$4 billion of general revenue surplus toward the Initiative. Additionally, FDOT will be able to leverage an additional \$3 billion (through innovative financing, contracting methods and policy proposals). By committing general revenue surplus funds, the projects, which have already been endorsed by the local communities, can be expedited.

Mr. Gaither discussed the projects in Collier County contained in the Initiative. The I-75 at Pine Ridge Road Interchange project includes widening Pine Ridge Road and reconstruction of the I-75 interchange to a diverging diamond interchange. The I-75 from Golden Gate Parkway to Corkscrew Road project will provide capacity improvements to over twenty miles of I-75 from Golden Gate Parkway to Corkscrew Road. The project will add one additional general use lane in the northbound and southbound

directions (six to eight lane widening). The S.R. 29 from C.R. 846 East to New Market Road project will construct a new alignment of S.R. 29 as a four-lane divided roadway to serve as a loop around the downtown Immokalee area. The design will have four twelve-foot travel lanes with curb and gutter on both sides, a twenty-two-foot median, and twelve-foot shared use paths on both sides. The project also includes drainage improvements along the entire length of the corridor. The S.R. 29 from New Market Road to S.R. 82 project consists of widening an approximately three-mile-long segment of S.R. 29. The final roadway will consist of two twelve-foot travel lanes in each direction with four-foot paved inside shoulders, ten-foot (five-foot paved) outside shoulders, and a thirty-foot median. Intersection improvements are proposed for the intersection of S.R. 29 at New Market Road and Westclox Street. **Vice-Chair Folley** requested clarification that the interchange at C.R. 951/Collier Boulevard was not discussed because it was already funded, and **Ms. McLaughlin** confirmed. **Ms. Peters** indicated that the interchange at C.R. 951 is in the design/build phase and headed into construction.

**Ms. Peters** stated that FDOT is holding a public meeting regarding the I-75 South Corridor Master Plan Update on February 16, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the North Collier Regional Park. The South Corridor goes from C.R. 951 to Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers. FDOT held regional grant information workshops and a SIS (Florida's Strategic Intermodal System) plan update session in January. The events were successful and beneficial to those who attended. The updated SIS plan addresses a more strategic way to invest SIS funds.

## **6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Ms. McLaughlin** announced that Collier MPO was awarded a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant to develop a Safety Action Plan. Once a Safety Action Plan is completed and approved, the entire region is eligible to apply for implementation grants. Collier MPO applied for \$200,000 in Federal funds, and Collier County has agreed to provide \$50,000 in match funds. It is unclear, at this time, when the Federal funds will be received or when the planning will start.

Ms. McLaughlin introduced the MPO's new Principal Planner, Mr. Kingston.

## **7. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

#### **7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report**

**Ms. Middelstaedt** stated that CAC had its meeting on January 23 and a quorum was achieved. There were no reports from FDOT. Ms. McLaughlin described handouts that were provided at the beginning of the meeting (BPAC's proposed revisions to the scope of work for the update to the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) and a 2020 U.S. Census Urban Area map). During Committee Action, Ms. Middelstaedt was re-elected as CAC Chair and Mr. Neal Gelfand was re-elected as CAC Vice-Chair. CAC endorsed the scope of work for the automated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the scope of work for the BPMP update with BPAC and TAC's suggested modifications. Ms. McLaughlin reported on issues related to the geographic expansion of what is now referred to as the Bonita Springs/Estero Urban Area for distribution of funding between Collier and Lee Counties. Given the update to the census map, joint meetings with Lee County would need to take place during the spring/summer months instead of during the fall, as was previously proposed. (Collier BCC recently decided to meet during the summer.) CAC received a presentation from the Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) division regarding Collier Area Transit, and FDOT Interstate Program Office provided a presentation regarding the I-75 South Corridor Master Plan, including upcoming public meetings. CAC was provided a distribution

of an update to the Veterans Memorial Boulevard extension project. The next CAC meeting is on February 27. Ms. Middelstaedt will be out-of-state, and Mr. Gelfand will chair the meeting.

## **7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

### **7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report**

**Ms. Lantz** stated that she was re-elected as TAC Chair and Ms. Alison Bickett was re-elected as TAC Vice-Chair at the last TAC meeting on January 23. Ms. Lantz highlighted some items from the TAC Chair Report included in the agenda packet. TAC discussed the bicycle/pedestrian safety ordinance suggested by the MPO Board, which is to be reviewed by BPAC. TAC would also like to review the draft ordinance and provide input. TAC had some preliminary discussion about the 2020 U.S. Census Urban Area map. Future discussions would include allocations and geographical boundary issues. Potential joint meetings with Lee County in October were discussed, but ultimately, it was decided that any joint meetings would likely need to occur earlier.

Ms. Lantz congratulated Collier MPO on its award of the SS4A grant.

## **7.C. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

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

**Mr. Matonti** indicated that at BPAC's last meeting on January 17, he was re-elected as BPAC Chair and Ms. Patty Huff was elected as BPAC Vice-Chair. The major area of focus at the meeting was the BPMP update. Ms. McLaughlin had provided a draft scope of work for the update and meaningful input was provided by BPAC. Some of the input included additional public involvement outreach, connectivity, and adding "cost" to evaluation criteria. With respect to public involvement, BPAC would like the consultant to develop a plan to participate in local, community events and collaborate with community groups and non-profits. BPAC also discussed the various types of media communications (such as television, radio, and print). The County had provided a 2023 Road Resurfacing Plan, which BPAC reviewed and commented on. The MPO is working to coordinate a joint meeting with Lee County's bicycle/pedestrian committee.

## **7.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)**

### **7.D.1. Congestion Management Committee Chair Report**

**Mr. Beauvoir** introduced himself and stated that he is the new CMC Chair and happy to be a member of CMC. CMC held its regularly scheduled meeting on January 18 and a quorum was achieved. CMC received agency reports from PTNE, Transportation Planning, BPAC, and Traffic Management Center Operations. Ms. Lantz was elected as CMC Vice-Chair. CMC reviewed, commented on, and approved draft Call for Projects Schedule, Submittal Requirements, Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Matrix. CMC discussed the available funding, forms, projects available for funding, changes in transportation technology, and successful transportation projects. There were no presentations or distribution items. The next CMC meeting is scheduled for March 15.

**Commissioner McDaniel** requested that Mr. Beauvoir keep the Board updated as planning and data collection moves forward.

**7.E. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)**

None.

**8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)**

None.

**9. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)**

**9.A. Elect MPO Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that the MPO Bylaws require that a Chair and Vice-Chair be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year. The officers must be voting members of the MPO and any Board member may nominate or be nominated. Elections are decided by a majority vote. The Chair and Vice-Chair serve a one-year term or until a successor is elected. Council Member Paul Perry is the current Chair and Council Member Greg Folley is the current Vice-Chair.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to elect Vice-Chair Folley as Chair and Commissioner Saunders seconded. Passed unanimously.*

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to elect Commissioner Hall as Vice-Chair and Commissioner Kowal seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**9.B. Approval of Two Reappointments and One New Appointment of Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Members**

**Mr. Kingston** explained that two current members of CAC, and one new potential member of CAC, sought three-year terms on CAC. Mr. Rick Hart is a CAC member representing persons with disabilities, and Mr. Fred Sasser is a CAC member representing the City of Naples. Mr. Sasser was recommended by Council Member Perry and his CAC application was approved by Naples City Council on January 19. The new CAC applicant for the vacancy in District V, Josephine Medina, applied with approval expressed by Commissioner McDaniel. Ms. Medina has previous work experience with the MPO.

*Council Member Blankenship moved to approve the reappointment of Rick Hart to CAC, the reappointment of Fred Sasser to CAC, and the appointment of Josephine Medina to CAC. Commissioner Saunders seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**9.C. Approval of Two Reappointments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

**Mr. Kingston** explained that two current members of BPAC sought additional two-year terms. Both Ms. Andrea Halman, resident of Immokalee, and Mr. Anthony Matonti, former and current BPAC Chair, have been very active members of BPAC.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the reappointments of Andrea Halman and Anthony Matonti to BPAC. Council Member Pernas seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**9.D. Approval of a Work Order for Capital Consulting Solutions to Automate the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Sheets and Develop an Interactive, Searchable Map**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that the MPO would like to contract with Capital Consulting Solutions under the MPO's general planning contract and Procurement's regular rotation, to automate the project sheets for the FY 2024-2028 TIP, and to develop a searchable map. The work was previously done in-house by the MPO, but there was a margin of error with staff's manual insertion of data entry. An automated transfer of data would be more successful. It is the MPO's intention that the consultant provide standard operating procedures and staff training, so the work can be done in-house in the future. Ideally, MPO staff would be able to update GIS map(s) in the future as well. The work is outlined in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and there is sufficient funding to cover the cost (\$24,744). Review and concurrence have been provided by FDOT. TAC and CAC reviewed and endorsed the scope of services but did not review the proposed work order.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the work order for Capital Consulting Solutions to Automate the TIP Project Sheets and Develop an Interactive, Searchable Map, and Commissioner Saunders seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**9.E. Approval of a Work Order for Jacobs Engineering Group to Conduct the Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Regional Fare Study**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that that the MPO would like to contract with Jacobs Engineering Group under the MPO's general planning contract and Procurement's regular rotation, to conduct the Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Regional Fare Study. The Study is identified in the UPWP under transit and transportation disadvantaged planning. Funding is available and FDOT provided concurrence on the scope of services. TAC and CAC reviewed and endorsed the scope of services.

**Commissioner McDaniel** commented that he would like a comparison of rate schedules and services of similar municipalities that have Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the Study. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that the comparison should be easy to incorporate.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the work order for Jacobs Engineering Group to Conduct the Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Fare Study, with the comparison of rate schedules and services for similar municipalities, and Commissioner Kowal seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**10. PRESENTATIONS (MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION)**

**10.A. FDOT Interstate Program Office – I-75 South Corridor Master Plan**

**Mr. Jester** provided a presentation regarding the I-75 South Corridor Master Plan Update. Mr. Jester discussed the year of need for interchange and mainline segment improvements along the South Corridor (from C.R. 951 to Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers), the various proposed improvement projects, and the proposed typical sections for mainline segment projects. Two different strategies have been identified for mainline improvements: the addition of auxiliary lanes and general use lanes. Auxiliary lanes would be needed at key locations and managed lanes (currently proposed as thru lanes) would be needed on the northern portion of the corridor. Vehicle restrictions and tolling are not contemplated at this time, but an independent tolling study is being conducted. For managed lanes, the Plan anticipates a slip ramp, weave lane, and a second slip ramp to get from local lanes to thru lanes, and vice versa. This would

create a separation of vehicles travelling a long distance from those travelling a short distance, as the ability to get from one set of lanes to the other would not be available in between interchanges.

FDOT is beginning public outreach. There is an interactive online tour from February 13 through February 27. A virtual online Q&A session will take place on February 15 at 6 p.m. An in-person meeting will take place on February 16, at 5 p.m., at the North Collier Regional Park. Moving forward, FDOT hopes to finalize the Master Plan in the summer and continue to develop an implementation plan and complete PD&E studies this year.

**Commissioner McDaniel** asked why the interchange on Pine Ridge Road is not included as a project on the Master Plan Update. **Mr. Jester** responded that the Pine Ridge Road interchange is currently in the design phase, and therefore, does not need to be included in the Master Plan. **Commissioner McDaniel** asked if FDOT has been having any discussions about a partial interchange at Everglades Boulevard. **Mr. Jester** responded that an independent study is underway regarding a potential interchange at Everglades Boulevard. Once approved, FDOT will be reaching out to share the findings. **Commissioner McDaniel** indicated that if FDOT needs any help in that regard, to let him know, as he is planning to be in Tallahassee in April. Commissioner McDaniel requested that FDOT provide any findings from the study. **Commissioner Kowal** commented that he was recently at a press conference with the Deputy Governor and the Secretary of Transportation. There was a discussion regarding the need for an I-75 interchange at Everglades Boulevard for safety, particularly in emergency situations such as wildfires, and because of the anticipated rate of growth in that area. Commissioner Kowal expressed that an interchange at Everglades Boulevard is very much needed.

**Council Member Blankenship** suggested that, when FDOT is doing public outreach, other projects outside of the Master Plan, which are being considered or are already approved, be included so that the public gets a wholistic view related to I-75 improvements. **Mr. Jester** responded that FDOT will have a specific display related to ongoing projects not identified in the Master Plan. **Council Member Blankenship** asked if FDOT is considering any other potential I-75 interchanges. **Mr. Jester** responded that the MPO has requested FDOT to look at Vanderbilt Beach Road for a potential interchange; a preliminary study is being conducted. **Council Member Blankenship** suggested that FDOT let the public know about the studies on potential interchanges at Everglades Boulevard and Vanderbilt Beach Road.

**Council Member Pernas** commented that S.R. 29 has a lot of traffic, is going to be expanded to four-lanes and will have more traffic, and that many drivers on S.R. 29 get on I-75. Council Member Pernas wondered why S.R. 29 was not included on the Master Plan. **Mr. Jester** responded that the future projections monitored thus far indicate capacity needs at the areas identified in the Master Plan. Projections do not currently show a capacity need in the vicinity of S.R. 29. **Council Member Pernas** contended that many drivers are using S.R. 29 to avoid traffic on I-75 going through the Naples area. **Commissioner McDaniel** indicated that there are new plans, new funding, and new timelines for construction; the S.R. 29 from C.R. 846 E to New Market Road project was not slated for funding until 2032 and completion is anticipated in 2026. Council Member Pernas' concerns can be addressed when developing the next Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The upcoming work on S.R. 29 will impact work FDOT is doing on I-75, but not yet.

**Chair Folley** asked, with respect to the weave section in the Master Plan, if FDOT anticipates drivers will be able to get from the local lanes to the thru lanes and vice-versa at every interchange. **Mr. Jester** responded that there would be, except for at Exit 138 (Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard). Origin and destination data was analyzed, and the exit is very close to two other exits. FDOT will continue to monitor growth and need.

## **10.B. Introduction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 Safety Administrator**

**Mr. Robbins**, the new FDOT District 1 Safety Administrator, introduced himself, discussed his background, and provided a presentation regarding FDOT's current safety issues and initiatives. FDOT is trying to change the culture internally and externally to be more comprehensive, with the tenets being: safety is everyone's responsibility; incorporate a safety mindset from the start in all projects; look at all options and opportunities; partnerships with local agencies, officials, and stakeholders; and the Safe System Approach sponsored by FHWA (proactive rather than reactive).

On Florida's roads in District 1, there are 8 fatalities and 49 serious injuries daily. Crash statistics by the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan show that lane departures, intersections, and non-motorist (pedestrian and cyclists) account for the highest injury and fatality rates. Community engagement is a crucial part of safety planning. FDOT has partnerships with law enforcement and various community agencies, engages more community agency and member involvement in road safety audits, and conducts external and internal vision zero (planning for safety) training workshops. FDOT's path forward is to use a Safe System Approach (vision zero and speed management workshops for staff and external partners), partner engagement (one-on-one meetings with elected officials, law enforcement, and others across the District), spread the word of targeted safety messages through a variety of means for public awareness of key traffic safety issues, and a comprehensive approach of a grass roots effort involving all FDOT partners and resources to make the maximum safety impact. Mr. Robbins has been meeting one-on-one with county sheriffs to discuss roadway safety. FDOT's Target Zero initiative is to reduce the number of transportation-related serious injuries and deaths across Florida to zero.

Mr. Robbins offered to answer any questions. **Commissioners Hall and Saunders** asked what behaviors constitute distracted driving, specifically as it relates to drivers using mobile devices while driving. **Mr. Robbins** responded that law enforcement determines whether a driver is distracted, and it is also a legal issue. Many different driver behaviors can constitute distracted driving and it can also depend upon the conditions present. Using a mobile phone or texting (without a hands-free device) is illegal. **Commissioner Kowal** commented that Florida was one of the last states to enact a no texting while driving statute. In his opinion, the statute is poorly written. Enforcement was an issue because of loopholes in the statute. The statute should be revised. **Mr. Robbins** commented that FDOT is looking at engineering solutions to help, but many problems are caused by driver behavior (*e.g.*, distracted driving, aggressive driving, speeding). Driver education and training is an important component in reducing crashes. **Commissioner Kowal** commented that he has seen study results providing that texting while driving is worse than driving under the influence while maneuvering a vehicle. Commissioner Kowal also thanked Mr. Robbins for his service in the U.S. Army.

**Commissioner McDaniel** commented that there has been a shift to move toward roundabouts. There were contentions regarding the roundabouts on S.R. 82 and S.R. 29, particularly regarding freight vehicles. Commissioner McDaniel requested updates regarding roundabout improvements being made to intersections and statistics data on accidents and fatalities. The information would be helpful to compare with the previous studies that indicated less fatalities, and to help the Board in making infrastructure improvement decisions in the future. **Mr. Robbins** responded that FDOT will be doing after-improvement studies in various areas, including roundabouts and pedestrian crossings.

**Chair Folley** expressed concern that one of the factors contributing to roadway fatalities and serious injuries is aging driver, which accounts for 27%/28%. Chair Folley's recollection was that there is a ten-year period for driver's licenses. Chair Folley suggested that the State legislature may need to address the issue.



### **10.C. Update on Traffic Safety Statistics for Collier County**

**Ms. McLaughlin** provided a presentation regarding traffic safety statistics for Collier County based on information provided by FDOT, as follow-up from a request at the last MPO Board meeting. Ms. McLaughlin provided the annual average fatality trends and rates (compares fatalities and vehicle miles travelled) from 2009 through 2021. The most recent updated reporting period was for the five-year period of 2017 through 2021. The trends and rates for the last three reporting periods have been fairly consistent. Annual average serious injuries have gone up some. Average annual ped-bike fatalities and serious injuries have gone down. Data from 2014 through 2018 included in Collier MPO's 2021 Local Road Safety Plan provides that Collier County has lower than State average amounts of crashes, fatalities and injuries. According to the FDOT FY 2024 Highway Safety Matrix, Collier County is not included in the top 35% for any categories of safety concern/risk factor areas.

### **10.D. Collier County Public Transportation & Neighborhood Enhancement Division (PTNE) Report on Collier Area Transit (CAT)**

**Ms. Arnold** provided a presentation regarding Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) and explained what PTNE is and what it does. In addition to transit, PTNE has Municipal Service Taxing/Benefit Units that provide communities with various improvements. Ms. Arnold discussed Collier Area Transit (CAT) information and current operations statistics related to its fixed route system and paratransit system, as well as performance measures, planning functions, assets, asset management, and CAT's ten-year vision plan.

**Commissioner McDaniel** indicated that he was asked about enhancing the bicycle racks at existing bus stops and asked if CAT is responsible for the bike racks. **Ms. Arnold** responded that it is CAT's responsibility to build and improve the racks. **Commissioner McDaniel** asked how the public can inform CAT where bike racks are needed. **Ms. Arnold** advised that the public could contact CAT at 239-252-7777 or simply call 311. **Commissioner McDaniel** suggested that there be a standard operating procedure that bike racks are installed when new bus stops are added, or existing bus stops are repaired, and indicated a willingness to help if there was anything the MPO Board or commissioners could do from a procedural standpoint. **Ms. Arnold** stated that there are bike racks at all CAT shelters. There are different levels of bus stops; some are simply a bus stop pole in the ground, some are platforms that are connected to sidewalks, and some are shelters. There may be the capacity to add bike racks at platform stops. **Mr. Folley** remarked that he has received feedback that more CAT shelters are needed on Collier Boulevard in Marco Island. **Ms. Arnold** responded that CAT has been communicating with the commissioner for that district and working on the issue.

### **10.E. Report on SU Box Balances in the FY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Programming Status of Prioritized Project Lists**

**Ms. McLaughlin** provided a presentation as a follow-up to a request made by Commissioner McDaniel at the last Board meeting, when MPO Staff requested unprogrammed SU funding (Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban Funds) be provided to the CAT Maintenance Facility Replacement project. SU funds are awarded to Collier MPO to program cooperatively with FDOT; the funding is a flexible category of federal funds. The MPO Board has a significant role in determining how the SU funds (in the approximate amount of \$6-\$7 million annually) are used.

How the SU funds are spent originates with the 2045 LRTP and is encapsulated in the Cost Feasible Plan. Historically and by current MPO Board practice, the SU funds are allocated to bicycle/pedestrian project priorities, sometimes to MPO supplemental planning funds (especially for the LRTP), congestion

management/intelligent transportation priorities, and bridge/safety priorities. The balance of SU funds for September, October, and December of FY 2023 fluctuated from \$3.3 million in September, to \$5.8 million in October, to \$2.1 million in December. SU is a constantly moving category of funds. When the SU box is discussed, it is important to remember that the box is the residual money that has not been programmed yet, and what has been programmed in that year should be considered. For FY 2023, SU funds and TA (transportation alternative) programmed funds were \$4.6 million and box funds were \$2.1 million. With respect to the Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2024 – 2028, all the SU funds were programmed for FY 2024.

In terms of prioritized projects being funded, all 2022 bicycle/pedestrian priority projects are either in design or construction, and all but one of the five 2021 congestion management priority projects are underway (the one project not underway is anticipated to be included in the next work program). With respect to 2021 planning study priorities, the 2050 LRTP planning has been well-funded. On the 2022 transit priority list, the CAT Maintenance Facility Replacement project was the number one priority.

#### **10.F. Preliminary Report on US Census Release of Urban Area Data**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that newly released census data and delineation for urban areas (2020), which is the population basis for the MPO's planning, SU/TA, transit, and potentially carbon-reduction, funding is different than in years past. The designated Bonita Springs/Estero Urban Area funds that go to Collier County and the designated Cape Coral Urban Area funds go to Lee County. The Bonita Springs/Estero Urban Area now encroaches quite a bit into Lee County. Since the 2010 census, it grew by 56 square miles and the population grew by approximately 115,000. By comparison, the Cape Coral Urban area only grew by 1.5 square miles. It is unclear, at this time, how much of the population growth occurred within Collier County and within Lee County.

It was hoped that, at the MPOAC and the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership meetings during the prior week, some basic questions would be answered, but they were not. The joint meeting with Lee MPO that was tentatively scheduled to occur this fall will need to be moved up to occur earlier, as PL distribution formulas need to be provided to the State and FHWA by October 2023. MPOs are required to submit apportionment plans and boundary maps by January 2024. With this time frame, a joint meeting in November would be difficult. An apportionment plan would need to address boundary issues, if shared by two MPOs, and also contemplate voting member structures. Ms. McLaughlin requested that Mr. Scott explain the background and issues he is aware of to the Board.

**Mr. Scott** stated that Collier MPO was created in the 1980s. At that time, there was a gap between the urban areas. In the 2000 census, the urban areas came together around the Estero River area (U.S. 41 and Corkscrew Road). The urban area was named the Bonita Springs Urban Area because urban areas are named after the largest city. Lee County's urban area was originally named the Fort Myers urban area. Cape Coral became bigger, and the Lee County urban area is now called the Cape Coral Urban Area. The Collier County urban area is now referred to as the Bonita Springs/Estero Urban Area.

Going back ten and twenty years, the MPOs would have received a letter from FDOT by this time because the urban areas are contiguous and there are major differences in the two MPOs. The FDOT letter would typically suggest combining the MPOs. In 2003 and 2013, Lee and Collier MPOs had joint meetings regarding combining the MPOs. Both times, both MPOs entered resolutions that the MPOs did not want to combine. As an aside but related matter, the Pinellas County State Senator and Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee is putting forth legislation this year about consolidating MPOs. Depending upon how far the proposed legislation goes, it would have an impact on the MPOs. On the east coast of Florida, there is one large, urbanized area between Miami and Palm Beach. Those counties were able to get their funding split by county lines. Mr. Scott estimates the population of Bonita, Estero and San Carlos Park

contained in the designated urban area for Collier County to be approximately 109,000, which would represent funding allocations to Collier MPO instead of Lee MPO. With respect to apportionment, the new population numbers impact membership for the jurisdictions based on that population. These issues will need to be addressed by the MPOs. There are three potential solutions Mr. Scott is currently aware of: (i) consolidation; (ii) the Estero/Bonita Springs portion located in Lee County designated for Collier MPO funding deals with Collier MPO instead of Lee MPO; or (iii) determine a way to get the funding allocated at county boundaries.

**Commissioner McDaniel** commented that a joint meeting with Lee MPO would be needed sooner rather than later. **Ms. McLaughlin** agreed. **Mr. Scott** pointed out that potential legislation would not get signed until July 1. Ten or twenty years ago, there would have been a letter with guidance or suggestions provided to the MPOs by this time. Mr. Scott suggested the potential for a joint meeting in late Spring. By that time, the language of the proposed legislation should be known and, hopefully, Collier and Lee MPOs will know more about the boundary issues and how to move forward. **Commissioner McDaniel** added that legislation is seldom revised or changed after it comes out of the July session. The sooner Collier and Lee MPOs have a joint meeting, the better poised they will be to address the issues. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that MPO Staff will bring a proposal forward when more is known about when to schedule the joint meeting. Ms. McLaughlin would like to have joint meetings for TAC and CAC a month in advance of a joint MPO Board meeting, if possible.

**Ms. Scott** stated that the Transportation Management Services Department is aware of the forthcoming potential legislation. Ms. Scott has alerted the communications director and the director of government and public affairs, and requested the proposed legislation be tracked. When any information comes in, it will be provided to Ms. McLaughlin as soon as possible so that the MPO Board can be briefed. **Mr. Scott** added that he inquired whether a letter to the MPOs setting forth suggestions or guidance would be provided but did not receive an answer on whether a letter would or would not be provided. The MPOs may want to provide a letter of their own setting forth how they would like to proceed.

**Chair Folley** requested Ms. McLaughlin to circle back with the MPO Board quickly on a potential joint meeting. **Ms. McLaughlin** indicated she would and remarked that the issues are complex.

## 11. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

### 11.A. Administrative Modifications to the FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item distributed.

## 12. MEMBER COMMENTS

**Commissioner McDaniel** asked Ms. McLaughlin if she needed direction from the MPO Board, sooner rather than later, to amend the LRTP to reflect the Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative. **Ms. McLaughlin** responded that she is tracking the Initiative; if approved by the legislature, it may trigger the need to amend the LRTP. **Commissioner McDaniel** suggested that Ms. McLaughlin start looking at amending the LRTP now to be proactive, as all or part of the legislation will likely be passed. The Initiative contains significant improvements to congestion management and interchanges. **Chair Folley** stated that the consensus of the Board was for Ms. McLaughlin to start working to amend the LRTP to reflect the Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative.

**Commissioner McDaniel** thanked FDOT for the presentations provided.

**Commissioner Kowal** commented that the meeting was very informative.

**Council Member Blankenship** stated that at a City of Naples council meeting last month, staff was requested to work on a comprehensive traffic study update of the Goodlette Frank Road and U.S. 41 and Four Corners intersections and the surrounding streets because there are so many redevelopment projects going on, which have been looked at individually over the years, but have not been looked at holistically. The City would like the County and FDOT involved in the process to share data, analysis, and potential recommendations.

**Chair Folley** thanked the MPO Board members for their support in his new role as Chair and thanked Council Member Perry for his service as Chair over the past year.

**Commissioner Saunders** thank everyone for the information provided at the meeting.

**Council Member Perry** expressed appreciation for his role as Chair and congratulated Chair Folley on his election.

### **13. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**13.A. Next Meeting Date – March 10, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL, 34112**

**Chair Folley** stated that he will be on a cruise, which has been postponed four times since 2020, during the next meeting, and Commissioner Hall will need to serve as Chair for the next meeting.

### **14. ADJOURN**

*There being no further business, **Chair Folley** adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:36 a.m.*