

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Board of County Commission Chambers
Collier County Government Center
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor
Naples, FL 34112
May 12, 2023
9:30 a.m.**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

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, Chair
Commissioner Chris Hall, Collier County BCC District 2, Vice-Chair (arrived after Roll Call)
Commissioner Rick LoCastro, Collier County BCC District 1
Commissioner Burt Saunders, Collier County BCC District 3
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

Commissioner Dan Kowal, Collier County BCC District 4 (arrived after Roll Call)
Council Member Paul Perry, City of Naples

Members Absent

None

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Sean Kingston, Principal Planner
Dusty Siegler, Senior Planner

FDOT

Wayne Gaither, Manager, District 1 Southwest Area Office (SWAO)
Victoria Peters, Community Liaison
John Kubler, Interim FDOT Secretary

Others Present

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair
Trinity Scott, Department Head, Collier County Transportation Mgmt. Services

Troy Miller, Manager, BCC Television Operations
Michelle Avola-Brown, Executive Director, Naples Pathways Coalition (NPC)

Zoom Participants

Elaine Middelstaedt, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair
Roy Chiavacci
Sydney Wilson

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Folley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

4.A. April 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

6. AGENCY UPDATES

6.A. FDOT

Ms. Peters mentioned that Wayne Gaither of FDOT went to City of Everglades City a couple weeks ago and gave a presentation on upcoming projects in the Everglades area. Regarding current projects, the interchange improvement at I-75 at State Road 951 is to improve highway operations, safety, and regional mobility. Construction mobilization will begin in late May to mid-June. Utility relocations have been going on since mid-March, continuing in the upcoming weeks and months. Improvements include the reconstruction of this interchange from a diamond interchange to a modified diamond interchange. On and off-ramps will be reconstructed along with two flyover ramps over Davis Boulevard. Two new loop ramps will be constructed, emergency stopping sites on off-ramps, and interchange improvements from I-75 Southbound to Collier Boulevard. Construction costs are estimated at \$98 million.

There is a FDOT-managed sidewalk project in City of Everglades City that has been in the work program for a long time-Copeland Avenue Sidewalk from Chokoloskee Bay Bridge to north of Broadway Avenue. Six-foot sidewalks are also being constructed on the east side of Copeland Avenue just north of the Chokoloskee Bay Bridge to north of Broadway Avenue. On the Southern Limit, the original project limits started at the south end of the Everglades City Limits. The project now extends to the Chokoloskee Bay Bridge so as not to leave a gap of old deteriorated asphalt sidewalk. For the Northern Limit, the original project limit ended at the existing sidewalk in front of City Hall. Additional sidewalk was added to complete the pathway for pedestrians around the entire traffic signal along with other safety improvements. FDOT will also repair several damaged drainage inlets. In the southern two-lane section, vehicular traffic will share the southbound lane while the sidewalk is under construction by using temporary portable traffic signals. The sidewalk construction has begun. Simultaneously, there is a companion project at State Road 90 at the Oasis Visitor Center. FDOT will be constructing a westbound right turn lane and an eastbound

left turn lane on US 41/Tamiami Trail into the Oasis Visitor Center. All pavement widening is on the south side to avoid impacts to the alligator-filled canal on the north side. FDOT will resurface the existing roadway through the widening limits on east and west of the widening limits, and the driveway entrance into the Oasis Visitor Center will be improved.

There is also the Phase 3 Everglades City Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan managed by FDOT. This is an ongoing project that just started, and in a couple of years, the second half of the Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan will be completed. It is funded for design in FY26 with \$430,000 not yet funded for construction and anticipated to be funded for construction in this upcoming work program cycle. This project will enhance the safety conditions for children, pedestrians and bicyclists who are currently walking and biking in the city streets where sidewalks will be provided on Broadway Avenue, Hibiscus Street, Copeland Avenue, and N. Storter Avenue. The sidewalk on Broadway Avenue will continue around the circle and connect to the upcoming sidewalk project on Copeland Avenue. These bike lanes and sidewalks will provide a safe connection to the central businesses, City Hall, Museum of the Everglades, McLeod Park, the public dock on the Barron River, and the Everglades Community Church.

FDOT will be holding a speed management workshop on May 18 from 8 - 4:30 in Bartow at District headquarters in the auditorium.

Commissioner LoCastro said, do you know anything about the Treviso Bay light? It's a project between FDOT and Lennar Homes. Lennar Homes told me it would stop blinking yellow on May 8th and would be fully activated. It's been blinking yellow for over a month. It's a light which should have been put in a long time ago with the homes. **Ms. Peters** replied that she would look into the issue and follow up.

Commissioner McDaniel said, in regard to the I-75 and Immokalee interchange: we're excited with what's going forward with Moving FL Forward. I saw two presentations of about \$23 million being appropriated into the intersection. The widening of I-75 will enhance the ingress and egress on and off the interstate there. Commissioner Saunders spearheaded a study several years ago for that area and things we could do on a local basis, but a diverging diamond is not a part of the work program. I would like the MPO to delineate this. The findings of the study showed the necessities for improvements at that interchange needed to be accomplished by 2025. If you need a motion from this Board to move this forward, I will do so if it will help you.

Ms. Peters replied that she would look into it, and asked Commissioner Saunders if he spearheaded the study. **Commissioner Saunders** responded that there was planning on Pine Ridge Road and the rationale behind doing this first was that there had to be some relief for Immokalee Road traffic and that we needed to move forward for Immokalee Road. I think Ms. Scott conducted that study and has plans for the major intersection including the Immokalee and Interstate-75 intersection. We tried to use local funds to move it more quickly. Will Ms. Scott elaborate on how they went about advancing those funds? **Ms. Scott** reported that a study was conducted where multiple improvements were identified at the intersection of Immokalee and Livingston, a diverging diamond at the Immokalee Road and I-75 intersection, as well as a shoulder improvement to convert a right turn lane to a through right lane for westbound Immokalee Road. The County worked with FDOT throughout that study, and FDOT agreed with the findings. With the County's five-year program, we've identified funding for the shoulders and have received Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) or County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) funds from FDOT as well as design for the intersection at Immokalee and Livingston. The last piece of the puzzle is the interchange at I-75 and Immokalee Road, which is not included in any work program at this time. County staff is hopeful it will be included in Moving Florida Forward for I-75 widening. If not, it will need to be programmed as well or nearby roads will not operate as efficiently.

Chair Folley said to Ms. Peters, will you let us know if you need something at our next meeting, such as a motion? **Ms. Peters** replied that she would.

6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. McLaughlin reported that she has nothing to add beyond what is included in the agenda packet.

7. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

Ms. Middelstaedt reported on the last CAC meeting, acknowledging FDOT's presentation on projects in Everglades City with the visitor's center. CAC had an in-person meeting with a quorum on April 24. The County is responsible for resurfacing the bike lanes on County Road 29 as it goes through Everglades City. The MPO Director announced that Dusty Siegler had been promoted to Senior Planner. In committee actions, the amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was endorsed. CAC was presented with a draft of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with project sheets available for comment. Collier County Transportation Planning had a very thorough and interesting presentation of how their process works. CAC will have another meeting on May 22 and then will have a break for the summer.

7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

Ms. Lantz reported that the TAC update is similar to the CAC's. There was a quorum at the April 24 TAC meeting. TAC recommended for the UPWP to go forward. TAC reviewed and commented and had recommendations for the TIP. These included acknowledgements of the changes and that it be standardized according to FDOT and FHWA. The next meeting is on May 22.

7.C. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

None.

7.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)

None.

7.E. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

7.E.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report

Mr. Pernas reported that LCB met on May 3, and reviewed, approved, and endorsed the updated LCB bylaws, appointed Carmen Henry to the Grievance Committee, reviewed and approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Community Transportation Corridor (CTC) Designation,

reviewed and approved the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) 2023 Annual Update and Rate Model, reviewed and endorsed the draft TD Planning Grant Application and associated draft Resolution, passing unanimously. LCB was also given reports for the CTC by Omar DeLeon, the MPO Quarterly Progress Report by Dusty Siegler, and the FDOT report by Dale Hanson. The next LCB meeting is scheduled for September 6.

8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)

None.

9. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)

9.A. Approve Appointment of a New At-Large Member to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Ms. McLaughlin said the MPO received an application from Michelle Arnold to be appointed to fill an at-large vacancy. She recently retired from Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) as the Division Director. She has a background of public service with Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce Board, Saint Matthew's House, David Lawrence Committee, and Youth Haven Committee.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to Approve Appointment of Michelle Arnold to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Commissioner LoCastro seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.B. Approve Two Reappointments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Mr. Kingston remarked that George Dondanville and Mark Komanecky's appointments are expiring at the end of May and June. They have both been active members since 2021. Mr. Dondanville has a prior history as a member and Mr. Komanecky has a strong commitment to pathways.

Council Member Pernas moved to Approve the Reappointments of George Dondanville and Mark Komanecky to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Commissioner Saunders seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.C. Approve Amendment #3 to FY 22/23-23/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Amendment to the MPO Agreement and Related Resolution

Ms. Siegler indicated that the UPWP provides a work program that describes the MPO's budget. The purpose of the proposed amendment is three-fold: first, for the current fiscal year ending on June 30, to reallocate planning (PL) funds totaling \$50,000 from Tasks 2, 4, 5, and 6 to personnel PL funds for Task 1 to fund the task work that MPO staff has been working on, and anticipates working on, for the remainder of the current fiscal year. This is a net zero revision in that it does not add or remove funding to the UPWP. Second, for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, to reallocate \$3,000 in PL funds from personnel within Tasks 1, 3 and 5 to PL funds for consultants in the corresponding tasks so that the consultant projects that will remain ongoing at the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2023) can continue to be funded with FY 22/23 fund allocations in upcoming FY 23/24. This is also a net zero revision. Finally, to include an additional \$2,667 in PL funds for Task 6. On April 4, FDOT notified Collier MPO that the 5305(d) program PL fund allocation increased by \$2,667 (Attachment 4) and indicated that an amendment to the UPWP and the MPO Agreement would be required. In the proposed Amendment 3, the funds have been allocated to

the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Major Update to ensure that the ongoing project can be funded with FY 22/23 fund allocations in upcoming FY 23/24.

Other changes contained in the proposed UPWP Amendment include updates to some target dates for deliverables, updated FDOT soft match amounts, and updated summary tables. The public comment period for the proposed UPWP Amendment began on April 14, 2023, and will close at this MPO Board meeting on May 12, 2023. No public comments have been received.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to Approve Amendment #3 to FY 22/23-23/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Amendment to the MPO Agreement and Related Resolution, and Commissioner LoCastro seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.D. Adopt Updated Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Bylaws

Ms. Siegler indicated that pursuant to the terms of the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant, LCB is required to review and approve its bylaws annually. No substantive changes are being proposed at this time. The revisions include an update to the current LCB Chair and the MPO Board Chair and the date of adoption. The LCB voted unanimously to endorse the updated LCB bylaws at its meeting on May 3, 2023.

Council Member Pernas moved to Adopt Updated Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Bylaws and Commissioner Saunders seconded. Passed unanimously.

10. PRESENTATIONS (MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION)

10.A. Presentation on Draft FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. McLaughlin gave the PowerPoint presentation provided in the agenda packet.

10.B. Report on Status of the Annual List of Project Priorities

Ms. McLaughlin indicated that the item is being provided to the MPO Board as a preview before the Board is requested to vote at the next meeting. There has not been much change this year so far. Regarding the allocation that changes according to Board Policy and is recorded in the Long-Range Transportation Plan, there is bridges and safety. The MPO received updates on the transportation regional incentive program and transit priorities. Transit planners are staying with 2022 priorities. Lorraine Lantz is available if there are questions about TRIP priorities. On the County side, Oil Well Rd. is moving from fiscal year 2027/28 to 2028/29 because it did not get funded previously. There has been some cost updates on the Lee County side.

10.C. Status of Moving Florida Forward Initiative, 2045 LRTP Amendment and TIP Amendment

Mr. Gaither said Moving FL Forward is an initiative from the governor's office addressing twenty projects throughout the state addressing efficiency, safety, and congestion. The issues we are facing are about population growth and development. A bill or law is not in place. We will get about \$4 billion dollars of the funding which means we are \$3 billion shy on the financing side to advance these projects. There will be an analysis on these projects to see what can be addressed with the funds made available with the signature on July 1. At that point, FDOT will have more information to share.

10.D. Update on MPO Activities Related to Planning (PL) Funding Distribution Scenarios

Ms. McLaughlin stated that there was a meeting with Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Policy and Technical Committee on May 9 where there was much discussion with review of scenarios. MPOAC decided to keep the current formula with a \$350,000 base for all the MPOs and the remainder for population based on urban area. This scenario is comfortable for Collier MPO in terms of funding level with approximately \$634,000 per year, which is an increase over past years with the funding that came through with the new spending bill. There was some discussion to choose the scenario of strictly population with no base, which would be difficult for Collier MPO at approximately \$430,000. The MPOAC Policy and Technical Committee will meet on July 19 and vote on their recommendation to the Staff Directors and Governing Board on July 27, which will have the final say.

10.E. Board Direction on Proposed Joint Workshop with Lee County MPO

Ms. McLaughlin indicated she was appreciative of working with Don Scott, the Executive Director of Lee MPO, to form a joint workshop. So many things are unknown in terms of Moving FL Forward and PL funding. It is recommended to have a workshop without votes by the County Attorney. We recommend August 18 from 10 a.m. to noon, so as not to conflict with the Annual League of Cities meeting. We would like to have a location close to the border between the two MPOs for convenience. MPO staff will bring the proposed agenda items back to you at the June meeting. The current proposed workshop agenda topics are as follows: a presentation on Bonita Springs/Estero Urban Area – Comparison of 2010 & 2020 US Census Population and Maps would be of interest to both Boards; A report on PL Distribution formula, which should be completed by the time of the August meeting; Updates on the Consolidation Bill and the History of the Joint Agreement between Lee and Collier Counties, and all the background between the two MPOs to remain separate and not combined. We must prepare an updated Appropriation Plan as part of the 2020 Census work. Staff recommends remaining separate MPOs but distributing SU carbon reduction for urban areas and transportation alternatives for urban areas with funding according to population; the outcome of the Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative. If you look at Moving FL Forward with the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan, there is an implication we need a North-South corridor connection like the 951 extension; and Status reports on regional transit and biking activities.

Commissioner McDaniel asked, will you send a save the date for August 18 to garner a quorum? **Ms. McLaughlin** replied that this is the first announcement, but staff can take that step next. **Commissioner McDaniel** said that there's a lot of people in Lee County MPO. We need a date. In terms of location, the Bonita Springs Fire Department location is large and would accommodate us, as well as North Collier Regional Park. **Ms. McLaughlin** further stated that staff would coordinate with CAC and TAC to try to schedule joint workshops for August 3.

Chair Folley remarked to let the record reflect that Vice Chair Hall has joined the meeting.

10.F. MPO Executive Director Position

Ms. McLaughlin: I am intending to retire at the end of my contract on March 9, 2024. I can extend it a few months beyond that when looking for a replacement. My thought is to follow the same process from when I was hired. I will be bringing this up again at the June meeting. The last time the position was filled by me in 2016, the Board instructed the then interim director, Ms. Lantz, to construct a process for recruitment with Human Resources and the County Attorney's Office. This was 30 to 60 days to attract people from the state and nationally to apply. There were roughly 30 applicants. They were pre-screened by a staff subcommittee to a smaller number for the Board to select from. The Board can do that again. It

was the Board's decision on who to bring in for in-person interviews. The proposed timeline (illustrated) is tied to Board meetings. The first round of applicants would go before you in October, with interviews in December. Last time, the Board was able to make a selection at the first meeting and then directed the County Attorney's Office to oversee the contract negotiation process. The contract could be before you for approval in February of 2024. Then the new hire will need to be given time to tie up loose ends and potentially move.

Commissioner McDaniel remarked, I shared Commissioner Saunders' thought processes regarding the continuation of your contract and respect your approach to this. I like the process. I understand the contract ends in March and the timeline continues to April. I understand that the timeline is flexible based on the number of applicants and how we move through the interview process. I did not see, with respect to this contract, any recommendations this Board can give to enhance the agreement and the employment offer. **Ms. McLaughlin** said, depending on how quick the process goes, October is a good checking in point and if the contract needs to go a few months further, I'm fine with that.

Commissioner McDaniel mentioned, I like this process. We won't hire a consultant. It will be similar to how the County Manager was hired. **Ms. McLaughlin** replied, there may be a higher dollar amount. It depends on whom you plan on recruiting and what their needs are. I felt the severance period in the contract was a little short. It could be someone moving across country, which could be daunting. **Commissioner McDaniel** asked Ms. McLaughlin to please provide a list of recommendations. The process will start next month. I'd like to see if the salary base is light. Then there could be a comparison of salaries among MPOs and what salary is offered and where it comes from. Please have that by the June meeting.

Chair Folley asked, is there a moving allowance? **Ms. McLaughlin** answered, the Board has not provided a moving allowance. I will check with County Attorney and Grants Office of the funding for that sort of expense. **Commissioner McDaniel** replied, we can consider that next month. **Chair Folley** mentioned we're happy we have you for this time.

11. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Hall said, I apologize for being late, I had a prior engagement. Thank you, Ms. McLaughlin. You've been a lot of help. We look forward to the process to find your replacement.

Council Member Pernas concurred, I agree, thank you. Luckily, we have some time. Thanks to Mr. Gaither and Ms. Peters from FDOT for their work in Everglades City.

Commissioner Saunders mentioned, I hate to see you departing, Ms. McLaughlin, and wish you well in retirement.

Commissioner McDaniel said, on Item 10.A., there was discussion about an administration decision on TIP funding to move Oil Well back. I wasn't talked with about this. The expansion of that roadway is behind now, let alone moving it back a couple of years. I'd like to know if consideration is being made to accelerate it from a six-lane expansion to a four-lane facility. The right of way is available for six lanes, but go ahead and do four. We're behind already. **Ms. Scott** replied, when we were asked for feedback on the TRIP priorities a few weeks ago, we were looking at the budget process and five-year program ahead of the Annual Updated Inventory Report. That year is too far out. We're still balancing.

Ms. Peters and I have had a lot of dialogue to match with the five-year capital program, which is more fluid because we are adjusting based on cost estimate increases. We'll work with her for the prioritization process to make sure that if there is any funding available, we can focus it on which projects are available for the year. **Commissioner McDaniel** said, my mistake, this was for Item 10.B., for the TRIP, not the TIP. We'd like to manage the real cost increases and also expand the facility to make sure the road takes on the capacity it will require. **Ms. Scott** added, we will need to do a redesign of the roadway for stormwater management considerations for the road to be a four-lane that can be widened in the future. **Commissioner McDaniel** said, I would like that consideration to be given to all of the six-lane facilities. With the advent of AI and AV, there's been a large 30% infrastructure requisite reduction. 30% is pretty easy when you only need four lanes and not six. We needed the four lanes five years ago. I'd like to ask that when we're moving through these decisions to have discussions regarding these priorities offline, if necessary, so we can have input.

Commissioner LoCastro mentioned that there was an MPO Advisory Council Weekend Institute workshop in Tampa last Saturday. It was very informative and other elected officials were there. It was very educational and a great networking opportunity. The workshop helped to chase funding from "concept to concrete" to work with the state and FDOT. Collier MPO Board has a great group with robust attendance. Anne, is this workshop something they have every year? **Ms. McLaughlin** replied, they are working to see if it can be offered a few times a year.

Commissioner Kowal remarked, Anne, I appreciated the short time I had to participate with you. I look forward to the process to replace you, if possible. FDOT, what's the location for the speed workshop on May 18? **Ms. Peters** replied, there's a Headquarters building for District 1 in Bartow with a beautiful new auditorium. 801 N Broadway Avenue. I will send it to the entire Board through the MPO. We ask for feedback from the participants and it is very engaging.

Chair Folley mentioned, I also attended MPOAC Weekend Institute last month in Orlando. We'll see if we can share the materials. We appreciate everything you do, Anne, and thank you for the process and plan for a successor.

Ms. McLaughlin replied, thank you, all of you. I'll try to have enough information for you at the June meeting so that you do not need to meet before the August workshop.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

14. ADJOURN

*There being no further business, **Chair Folley** adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m.*