

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Middelstaedt called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Kingston called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

CAC Members Present

Elaine Middelstaedt, *Chair*

Neal Gelfand, *Vice-Chair*

Dennis Stalzer

Josh Rincon

Karen Homiak

Misty Phillips

Michelle Arnold

CAC Members Absent

Dennis DiDonna

Fred Sasser

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director, Collier MPO

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner, Collier MPO

Others Present

Carmen Maldonado, FDOT

Sonal Dodia, Jacobs Engineering

Bill Gramer, Jacobs Engineering

Kathy Eastley, Planner III, Collier County Transportation Planner

Justin Martin, City of Marco Island Public Works Department Director

Patrick Post, Public

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Rincon moved to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Gelfand seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of the May 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Homiak moved to approve the May 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Stalzer seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. **Agency Updates**

A. FDOT

None

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin thanked those Committee members who participated in the in-house informational video Collier MPO recently produced, which was presented at their recent federal review team. She said the video went over very well and explained that the motivation for the video was to highlight the committee members who are an important part of the MPO in an efficient and effective way. She mentioned that the MPO received positive feedback regarding the entire review process from the federal reviewers but would receive a more detailed and formal report in the fall. She also said she had met with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as they had started developing their Work Program for FY 2026-2030 and informed her that because of the rising costs of project construction, the discretionary funding usually available to FDOT to cover any overage costs will no longer be available. They said that if project construction costs exceed the programmed funding, the MPO will need to utilize its own Surface Transportation Block Grant – Urban (SU) funds, which total approximately \$5 to 6 million per year. She will be working with all of the jurisdictions within the Collier region to prioritize projects and figure out a path forward through construction. The 2050 Long Range Plan will also be affected by the current financial situation.

7. **Committee Action**

A. Endorse Roll Forward Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Kingston explained that this Amendment was an annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment. He said the MPO was seeking to amend the FY25-29 TIP and approve an authorizing resolution to add projects from the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Roll

Forward report to include projects in the previous state fiscal year that were not authorized before the end of the state fiscal year on June 30th and must be incorporated in the new TIP in the current state fiscal year 2025.

Ms. Arnold moved to endorse the Roll Forward Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, and Mr. Gelfand seconded. Carried unanimously.

B. Endorse FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment – Transit Maintenance Facility

Mr. Kingston said the Amendment would authorize a Resolution recognizing a federal earmark and local funding directed towards constructing a new transit maintenance building being added to the FY 25-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had requested Collier MPO to amend its FY 25-29 TIP to add capital for a new Collier County Transit Maintenance Facility. The amendment would add \$4,190,000 in Congress General Fund Earmarks (CD24) and \$1,047,500 in local funds for a total of \$5,237,500.

Mr. Stalzer moved to endorse the Roll Forward Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, and Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.

C. Endorse FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment to Add SU Funds to the Collier Alternate Bike Lane Project

Ms. McLaughlin said this project for the City of Marco Island had gone through several stages, and that although SU funds might be stretched thin in FY26-30, this project was programmed for FY25 in which the additional funds requested are available for use.

Mr. Martin explained that the project was a part of the City of Marco Island’s master plan for bike lanes and shared-use paths.

Mr. Martin provided a presentation which can be viewed in the August 26, 2024 CAC Agenda

The project was originally submitted and programmed as a 2020 Bike/Ped project priority with a cost estimate of \$0.965 million and received an additional funding of \$1.504 million in 2023 to meet cost increases. Subsequently, the bid proposal the City received in June of 2024 exceeded project funds, and the City is requested a revised bid for a reduced project scope limited to just the southern segment. Due to construction costs, the reduced project scope requires an additional \$1.736 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant – Urban (SU) funds.

The project will be funded at \$2.457 million with adoption of the Roll Forward TIP amendment at the September 13, 2024 MPO Board meeting. With the requested addition of \$1.736 million from the revised bid, the total would be \$4.283 million for construction and preliminary engineering for the southern segment. He said the contract had already gone to bid and was ready to move forward when the additional funding was approved.

Ms. McLaughlin mentioned that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had voted to endorse the project earlier that day, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) had endorsed the project on August 20, 2024.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the TIP Amendment to add funds to the Collier Alternate Bike Lane Project, and Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

Ms. McLaughlin mentioned that the Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees play a large part in guiding the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The two Committees act as a Steering Committee for the plan, as they are first to hear about items that will be presented to the Board and ideas as they are brought forward.

Ms. Dodia provided a presentation which can be viewed in the August 26, 2024 TAC Agenda.

A group discussion followed, regarding the process and components of how the plan would be created.

Mr. Post said that he was presenting a concept he developed for a light rail transportation system in the Collier region. He said he had presented the idea to different entities and organizations around the region with positive feedback. He wanted to let the Committee know that he had submitted the concept to Jacobs Engineering for consideration of inclusion in the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

9. Member Comments

Ms. Middelstaedt asked if there had been any further talk about the idea of Collier and Lee MPO merging.

Ms. Mc Laughlin said the subject would most likely be brought forward again in the next legislative session, and that she and Lee MPO Executive Director, Don Scott, were discussing how to prepare an in-house feasibility study.

A group discussion followed, considering the possible financial and organizational effects that might be experienced in such a merger.

10. Distribution Items

A. Administrative Modification to Collier MPO's Fifth Amended FY 22/23-23/24 Unified Planning Work Program

The item was distributed.

B. FDOT Federal Functional Classification and Urban Area Boundaries for Collier County

The item was distributed.

C. Administrative Modification to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (FDOT TIP Review Checklist Items)

The item was distributed.

11. Next Meeting Date

September 23, 2024, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. Main Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Middelstaedt adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.