

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Board of County Commission Chambers  
Collier County Government Center  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor  
Naples, FL 34112  
December 8, 2023  
1:00 p.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Folley** called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Ms. Hansen** 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*  
Commissioner Dan Kowal, Collier County BCC District 4  
Commissioner Rick LoCastro, Collier County BCC District 1  
Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., Collier County BCC District 5  
Council Member Paul Perry, City of Naples  
Council Member Ted Blankenship, City of Naples  
Council Member Tony Pernas, Everglades City

**Members Absent**

Commissioner Burt Saunders, Collier County BCC District 3

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director  
Sean Kingston, Principal Planner  
Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner  
Suzanne Miceli, Administrative Support Specialist II

**FDOT**

Wayne Gaither, Manager, District 1 Southwest Area Office  
Victoria Peters, Community Liaison  
Kyle Purvis, Planning Administrator, District 1

**Others Present**

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney

Lorraine Lantz, Manager, Collier County Transportation Planning, TAC Chair, Acting CMC Chair

Brian Wells, Director, Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement

Riley Kemplon, Quest

Carmen Monroy, Stantec Consulting

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Folley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**4.A. October 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

*Council Member Perry moved to approve the Meeting Minutes and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**4.B. Ratify the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Major Update**

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to ratify the Consent Item, and Vice-Chair Hall seconded. Passed unanimously.*

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

None.

**6. AGENCY UPDATES**

**6.A. FDOT**

**Ms. Peters** provided an update about the wildlife crossings on S.R. 82 that Commissioner McDaniel had inquired about previously. She explained that as part of the S.R. 82 widening project, the bridges at both Under Canal and Panther Creek would be replaced. The new bridges would be longer and taller, accommodating wildlife shelves on both sides of the two crossings. The project was also proposing several miles of wildlife fencing to help funnel wildlife to the new crossings. Anticipated construction was 2025.

**6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

None.

**7. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

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

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

*Chair was not present. Report was in the agenda packet.*

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

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

**Ms. McLaughlin** commented that the report was in the agenda packet and that Ms. Lantz was available for questions.

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

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

*Chair was not present. Report was in the agenda packet.*

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

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

**Ms. McLaughlin** commented that the report was in the agenda packet and that Ms. Lantz, as acting chair, was available for questions.

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

**7.E.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report**

**Council Member Pernas** said that LCB met on December 6, 2023, and there was a quorum. Board action at the meeting included reviewing and approving the annual update to the LCB Grievance Procedures, reviewing and approving the Community Transportation Coordinator’s final FY 2022-23 Annual Operating Report, and reviewing and endorsing three draft grant applications under Federal Transit Administrations sections 5310, 5311, and 5339.

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

**8.A. Approve an Amendment to the Collier MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that Collier MPO was seeking Board approval of an Amendment to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and authorizing Resolution to address the addition of

the Moving Florida Forward (MFF) projects and funding to the Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) and to maintain planning consistency with FDOT's Work Program. She went on to say that MPO staff had prepared an Amendment to the 2045 LRTP to address changes to projects based on additional funding and construction cost estimates which were included in the MFF Infrastructure Initiative and recent Federal and State appropriations and project phases that had been added or changed in the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program FY 25-29. The Amendment would be followed up by Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendments to the FY 2024-28 TIP, which would provide more detail.

The four (4) MFF projects include widening I-75 from 6 to 8 lanes from Golden Gate to Corkscrew, I-75 and Pine Ridge Rd Interchange Improvement, widening S.R. 29 from 2 to 4 lanes from New Market Road to S.R. 82, and constructing a new 4-lane road as an extension of S.R. 29 for a loop around downtown Immokalee from C.R. 846 to New Market Road.

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that MPO followed the LRTP amendment public involvement process notice requirements outlined in the MPO's Public Participation Plan. At the time of the meeting, no public comments had been received. The proposed additions are included in the Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) - Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) of the 2045 LRTP. Fiscal constraint was maintained by the addition of MFF funds and other State revenues for the SIS CFP. The Amendment and supporting Resolution had received endorsement from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve the amendment adding four Moving Florida Forward (MFF) projects to Cost Feasible Plan and Resolution and **Vice-Chair Hall** seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

***Chair Folley** - Yes*

***Vice-Chair Hall** – Yes*

***Commissioner Kowal** – Yes*

***Commissioner McDaniel** – Yes*

***Commissioner LoCastro** – Yes*

***Council Member Blankenship** – Yes*

***Council Member Perry** - Yes*

***Council Member Pernas** - Yes*

*Passed unanimously.*

**8.B. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Adding Four Projects Funded by the Governor's Moving Florida Forward Initiative**

**Mr. Kingston** explained that MPO was seeking Board approval of an Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Collier MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and authorizing Resolution adding 4 projects funded by the Governor's MFF Infrastructure Initiative. FDOT had requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add the following MFF projects totaling approximately \$92 million, which

included widening I-75 from 6 to 8 lanes from Golden Gate to Corkscrew to add lanes and reconstruct at \$24,300,000, I-75 and Pine Ridge Rd Interchange Improvement (a.k.a. Diverging Diamond) at \$6,339,858, widening S.R. 29 from 2 to 4 lanes from New Market Road to S.R. 82 (aka “the Immokalee Loop Rd”) at \$9,626,335, and constructing a new 4-lane road as an extension of S.R. 29 for a loop around downtown Immokalee from C.R. 846 to New Market Road at \$51,508,685. Most of the cost estimates would be for constructions funds. The Amendment and authorizing Resolution received endorsement from CAC and TAC.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the amendment to FY24-28 TIP for Moving Florida Forward and Council Member Pernas seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Chair Folley - Yes*

*Vice-Chair Hall – Yes*

*Commissioner Kowal – Yes*

*Commissioner McDaniel – Yes*

*Commissioner LoCastro – Yes*

*Council Member Blankenship – Yes*

*Council Member Perry - Yes*

*Council Member Pernas - Yes*

*Passed unanimously.*

**8.C. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Transit Reimbursement Resulting from Emergencies**

**Mr. Kingston** explained that MPO was seeking Board approval of an Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Collier MPO TIP and authorizing Resolution. FDOT had requested Collier MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add projects which were awarded to Collier County for operating and capital reimbursement of public transportation systems, by protecting, repairing, and/or replacing equipment and facilities that may suffer or have suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency, including natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. The total amount of awards was \$157,113. The projects included are Collier County/Bonita Springs UZA/FTA Section 5324 Operating (operating reimbursement at \$61,779), and Collier County/Bonita Springs UZA/FTA Section 5324 Capita (Capital Reimbursement at \$95,334). The Amendment and authorizing Resolution had received endorsement from the CAC and TAC, and Staff recommended Board approval.

*Commissioner Kowal moved to approve the amendment to FY24-28 TIP to reimburse Transit Operations and Commissioner LoCastro seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Chair Folley - Yes*

*Vice-Chair Hall – Yes*  
*Commissioner Kowal – Yes*  
*Commissioner McDaniel – Yes*  
*Commissioner LoCastro – Yes*  
*Council Member Blankenship – Yes*  
*Council Member Perry - Yes*  
*Council Member Pernas - Yes*

*Passed unanimously.*

**8.D. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to the 16th St. Bridge Project**

**Mr. Kingston** explained that the MPO was seeking Board approval of an Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Collier MPO TIP and authorizing Resolution to add funds to the 16th St. Bridge project. The MPO asked FDOT on behalf of Collier County, to add \$4 million in FY 24 SU funds to the 16th St. Bridge project. FDOT requested Collier MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add the additional \$4 million in FY 24 SU funds and \$3,144,616 in Local Funds to the project, for a total FY 24 amount of \$11,859,616. The project is for new construction of the 16th St. Bridge NE from Golden Gate to 12th Ave NE. The Amendment and supporting Resolution had received endorsement from the CAC and TAC, and that Staff recommended Board approval.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the amendment to FY24-28 TIP to add funds to 16th St. Bridge and Council Member Perry seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Chair Folley - Yes*  
*Vice-Chair Hall – Yes*  
*Commissioner Kowal – Yes*  
*Commissioner McDaniel – Yes*  
*Commissioner LoCastro – Yes*  
*Council Member Blankenship – Yes*  
*Council Member Perry - Yes*  
*Council Member Pernas - Yes*

*Passed unanimously.*

**8.E. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to the Green Blvd Project**

**Mr. Kingston** explained that MPO was seeking Board approval of an Amendment to the FY 2024 2028 Collier MPO TIP and authorizing Resolution to add funds to the Green Blvd project. The MPO asked FDOT on behalf of Collier County, to add \$1,111,000 in FY 24 SU funds to the Green Blvd project to cover

the increased construction cost and CEI (Construction and Engineering Inspection). FDOT followed up and in turn requested the MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add the \$1.111 million in FY 24 SU funds for construction. The project is to construct a bike lane/sidewalk on Green Blvd. between Santa Barbara Blvd to Sunshine Blvd. The Amendment and supporting Resolution had received endorsement from the CAC and TAC, and Staff recommended Board approval.

*Commissioner McDaniel moved to approve the amendment to FY24-28 TIP to add funds to Green Blvd. and Vice-Chair Hall seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Chair Folley - Yes*

*Vice-Chair Hall – Yes*

*Commissioner Kowal – Yes*

*Commissioner McDaniel – Yes*

*Commissioner LoCastro – Yes*

*Council Member Blankenship – Yes*

*Council Member Perry - Yes*

*Council Member Pernas - Yes*

*Passed unanimously.*

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

### **9.A. Approve Amendment 5 to the FY 2022-2024 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Ms. Hansen** explained that the item was for the Board to approve Amendment 5 to the Fiscal Year (FY) 22/23-23-24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and related Resolution. The UPWP provides a planning work program that identifies and describes the MPO’s budget for activities, studies and technical support and also lists the funding source(s) for each planning task. UPWP Amendment 5 contains the following substantive changes: the inclusion of funding information for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program and associated Safety Action Plan in Task 5 (with funding of \$200,000 from USDOT; \$40,000 from Collier County; and \$10,000 from carryover MPO Local Funds), the removal of the Transportation System Performance Report from the scope of work in Task 4 and reallocation of associated FY 23/24 SU funding (\$50,000) towards the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the reallocation of \$13,000 in FY 23/24 personnel funding from Task 4 (LRTP) to Task 7 (Regional Coordination).

The public comment period for the proposed UPWP Amendment began on November 17, 2023 and closed at the start of the MPO Board meeting. At the time of the meeting, no public comments had been received. The Amendment had received endorsement from the CAC and TAC, and Staff recommended Board approval.

*Council Member Perry moved to approve the amendment 5 to the FY 2022-2024 Unified Planning Work Program, and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**9.B. Approve a Work Order for Stantec Consulting Services to Complete the Transit Development Plan Major Update**

**Ms. Hansen** explained that the item was to approve a Work Order for Stantec Consulting Services to complete the Transit Development Plan Major Update (TDP). The TDP Major is a 10-year plan which addresses transit and mobility needs, cost and revenue projections, and Community Transit goals, objectives, and policies. FDOT requires that recipients of State Transit Block funds prepare a major update to the TDP every 5 years. The MPO, in coordination with Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE), works with a consultant to develop the plan. The TDP major is identified in Task 6 (Transit and Transportation Disadvantaged Planning) of the FY 2022/23 - 2023-24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The project would be completed under the MPO's Professional Services General Planning Contract 18-7432 MP, which was approved by the MPO board on March 12, 2021.

In accordance with the contract, a request was sent to Collier County's Procurement Services to assign a vendor for the study. Procurement Services assigned Stantec Consulting Services to complete the project. The MPO met with Stantec and Stantec has extensive experience in developing transit-related plans. The cost to complete the work order would be \$184,978. Sufficient funding is allocated in the UPWP. Collier MPO requested and received FDOT's concurrence with the scope of services and to use Stantec Consulting Services. The project scope of services was endorsed by the CAC and TAC.

**Commissioner LoCastro** asked if the cost was typical.

**Ms. Hansen** responded that the cost was in line with typical consulting costs for the work of such complex plans.

**Ms. McLaughlin** confirmed Ms. Hansen's response, adding that the work was vital to the LRTP and that a competitive bidding process was completed.

*Commissioner LoCastro moved to approve a Work Order for Stantec Consulting Services to Complete the Transit Development Plan Major Update, and Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**9.C. Approve Regional Passenger Rail Study Joint Resolution and Application**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that the item was being presented for the Board to approve a Joint Resolution involving four (4) MPOs submitting a Passenger Rail Program Priority project to conduct a Southwest Florida Rail Study. She continued by saying that the MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) launched a Pilot Passenger Rail Priorities Program (PRPP). The goal of the PRPP is to expand rail options across the State of Florida while creating a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated multimodal network. Potential rail projects in Florida identified through the PPRP would be communicated to FDOT to tap into funds available under the Florida Rail Enterprise, and federal discretionary rail grants available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Staff from the 4 Southwest Florida MPOs, including Collier, Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota/Manatee, had coordinated regarding the language in the Joint Resolution,

which was reviewed by Mr. Teach, and agreed to submit a Joint Priority Application Request under the Program for a SW Florida Rail Study. The Lee MPO Board adopted the Joint Resolution at their meeting held on November 17, 2023. Staff recommends Collier MPO Board approval, which will be followed by Charlotte, and Sarasota/Manatee, wrapping up in January 2024. The purpose of the study to investigate the feasibility of running an intercity (such as Amtrak) or high-speed rail on I-75, using the multimodal transit envelope (the median). The rail would connect all 4 metropolitan areas with existing and planned passenger rail network. FDOT previously conducted a bus rapid transit study in the same corridor and learned that bus rapid transit could be a good test pilot program for the rail. The grant application request is for \$1.75 million.

*Ms. McLaughlin provided a presentation which can be viewed in the [December 8, 2023 MPO Afternoon Regular Meeting Agenda](#).*

**Chair Folley** asked if the grant amount was to be split between the counties, if the Collier MPO region would incur costs based on a required match agreement, and if there was any information on the statistics of the utilization of the Brightline rail line in Miami, as he wanted to have some assurance that a rail would be utilized in Southwest Florida.

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that to her knowledge, the funding dividends were not yet known and that she would investigate the east coast rail statistics.

**Chair Folley** said he would like to look over the statistics to better inform the pursuit of a rail.

**Commissioner Blankenship** was concerned that there might not be a demand for an intercity rail, and the costs could get into the billions.

**Ms. McLaughlin** confirmed that the grant funds available for the study were earmarked for rail projects only and would not be available for other types of projects. The study would answer the utilization question, and then there could potentially be a local grant match requirement if rail network feasibility was discovered.

**Mr. Gaither** explained that the study was a Resolution that started with the MPOAC. The intention of the MPOAC was to investigate feasibility to keep up with the rail-wise trend. The Resolutions in place were created to be sure that there would be interest. There is no definitive funding yet.

**Chair Folley** said he understood that the Resolution was for the study and was a preliminary step, and that the study as well as obtaining information on the rail usage on the east coast would inform the Board whether it might be worth any match agreement costs.

***Council Member Pernas** moved to approve the Regional Passenger Rail Study Joint Resolution and Application, and **Council Member Perry** seconded. Passed 7:1 with **Council Member Blankenship** dissenting.*

**9.D. Review and Comment on FDOT Functional Classification and Urban Boundary Updates**

*Mr. Purvis provided a presentation on the FDOT Draft Functional Classification and Urban Boundary Changes, which can be viewed in the [December 8, 2023 MPO Afternoon Regular Meeting Agenda](#).*

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that Trinity Scott, Collier County Transportation Department Head, requested TAC to do a thorough examination of the functional classification updates, substantiating that if a road was classified as a “Collector” or above, it would have inclusion in the federal aid system and be available for FEMA funds, so proper road classification was vital. The comments and concerns that arose from TAC’s examination were brought to FDOT for reconsideration of some classifications. As those comments and concerns were still in consideration by FDOT during the time of the MPO Board meeting, staff was recommending that the item be brought back to the committees in January 2024 for endorsement, and then back to the Board in February 2024 for final approval.

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

**10.A. FDOT Draft Tentative work Program 2025-2029**

*Ms. Peters presented a video by FDOT which can be viewed at [FDOT Five Year Work Program](#).*

**Ms. Peters** commented that the successful year that FDOT enjoyed, as well as the success of FDOT’s Work program, was due to the great collaboration and relationship FDOT has had with the Collier MPO Staff and Board. She thanked everyone.

**Mr. Kingston** mentioned that the item was being presented to give the Board the opportunity to review the Draft Tentative Work Program for FY 2025 -2029 in detail (including the draft and summary of changes), ask questions, and provide comments to FDOT. FDOT released the FY 2025-2029 Draft Tentative Work Program on October 18, 2023. MPO staff distributed copies to agency technical staff for review and comment. The summary of changes was made up of additions, advances, deferrals, cost increases and decreases, and deletions.

*Mr. Kingston reviewed several of the projects which can be viewed in detail in the [December 8, 2023 MPO Afternoon Regular Meeting Agenda](#).*

**10.B. Report on Florida Greenways and Trails Council Meeting on Addition of Collier to Polk Regional Trail to the SUN Trail Network**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said she attended and provided a presentation to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council Meeting (FGTC) on December 6, 2023. The presentation and concept came from FDOT District One. It was noted that the Board approved a Resolution which showed the existing land opportunity trails at the September 8, 2023 meeting. Since that meeting, Ms. Mclaughlin received a letter from Senator

Passidomo supporting the addition of S.R. 29 to the Trail. FGTC voted and accepted the Collier to Polk Trail and State Road 29 addition.

*Vice-Chair Hall moved to ratify the addition of State Road 29 to the Collier to Polk Regional Trail, and Council Member Pernas seconded. Passed unanimously.*

## **11. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS**

### **11.A. FDOT Response Letter to USDOT Regarding Carbon Reduction Program**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that this was for the Board to receive a copy of a letter FDOT's Secretary, Perdue, sent to USDOT's Secretary, Buttigieg, regarding the Carbon Reduction Program. Secretary Perdue's letter, dated November 13, 2023, stated that FDOT would not submit to the Carbon Reduction Strategy required by USDOT and therefore was opting out of participating in the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). MPOAC Executive Director, Mark Reichert, distributed the letter to the MPOs and relayed that he was not sure what impact it would have on the CRP formula funding, and that he was reaching out to the FDOT for guidance. FDOT's revenue projections for the 2050 LRTP had indicated that Collier MPO would receive approximately \$576,000 in CRP formula funds on an annual basis.

**Mr. Gaither** explained that the letter was the continuation of a conversation that had been taking place between FDOT and USDOT regarding the carbon reduction funds that were in place. One of the areas of concern was that there were no performance measures in place. Funds were being spent without knowledge of what the stipulations would be. No action had yet been taken. Central Office would be reviewing the options.

**Chair Folley** agreed with the Senator's request to investigate the stipulations of the funds.

### **11.B. Letter of Support for Miccosukee Tribe's Application to Federal Lands Program**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that this was for the Board to receive a copy of a Letter of Support of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida's Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program. She continued that the Miccosukee Tribe had previously applied for various federal discretionary grants, without success, to construct safety improvements to Snake Rd. The Tribe was applying to the NSFLTP Program. The MPO has consistently supported the Tribe's attempts at finding funding for safety improvements.

## **12. MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner McDaniel** wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Vice-Chair Hall** wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked Ms. McLaughlin for her service.

**Council Member Perry** wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Council Member Pernas** wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Chair Folley** congratulated the Board on their great work that day and mentioned that he was excited about the incoming director.

**13. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**13.A.** February 9, 2024 - 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 2:12 p.m.*