

**CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the  
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 15, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

**Mr. Kingston** called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**CMC Members Present In-Person**

Don Scott

Dan Hall

Joe Rautkys (*for Alison Bickett*)

Karen Homiak

Omar De Leon

**CMC Members Absent**

Chris Ordonez

Dave Rivera

Dayna Fendrick

John Lambcke

Justin Martin

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

**Others Present**

Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning

Kathy Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planning

Mike Harris, Kimley-Horn

Patrick Post, Public

*\*Item 7.A. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair was heard before item 3.*

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

*Ms. Homiak moved to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Scott seconded. Passed unanimously.*

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

*Ms. Homiak moved to approve the November 20, 2024 minutes. Mr. DeLeon seconded. Passed unanimously.*

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

**Mr. Post** said he has been promoting light rail transportation in Southwest Florida by sharing the comprehensive plan with communities in the region, in which he had received positive response. He said he was trying to help non-profit organization, Friends of BERT (a nonprofit organization advocating for the completion of the Bonita-Estero Rail Trail (BERT), a proposed 15-mile shared-use path that would run along an unused rail corridor from the north end of Collier County to Alico Rd. in Lee County) find sponsors to raise funds of \$82 million to purchase the abandoned rail line. His proposal is that the rail line be used for an elevated solar-powered light rail with a shared-use path below, with affordable housing nearby. He had been talking with various commercial entities and organizations regarding elements like light rail transportation centers, solar power assistance, and clean transportation. He was looking for local support.

**6. Agency Updates**

**A. FDOT**

None.

**B. MPO**

**Mr. Kingston** said that at the last CMC meeting, the Committee was provided a presentation on the Existing Conditions Memo for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) by MPO consultant, TYLin, and that they would be presenting an updated version at the MPO Board meeting on February 14, 2025. Some of the other plans in development are the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update, the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan, and the Transit Development Plan. If the Committee had inquiries regarding any of the plans, they are welcome to contact the MPO.

**C. Other**

**(i) City of Naples**

None.

**(ii) Collier County Public Transportation & Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE)**

None.

**(iii) Collier County Transportation Planning**

None.

**(iv) Collier County Traffic Management Center (TMC) Operations**

None.

**(v) Lee County MPO**

None.

**7. Committee Action**

**A. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair**

*Ms. Homiak moved to nominate Mr. Hall as CMC Chair. Mr. DeLeon seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**Mr. Hall** said he would be willing to be Chair under the condition that CMC meetings be brief and last no more than an hour. He would be unavailable to attend MPO Board meetings to discuss Chair Reports.

*Ms. Homiak moved to nominate Ms. Bickett as CMC Vice-Chair. Mr. Scott seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**B. Endorse the Regional Lee and Collier Congestion Management Process (CMP) Element Scope of Services**

**Mr. Kingston** said that the Lee and Collier MPOs were working on a joint Regional Congestion Management Process (CMP) Element Scope of Services. The Regional CMP Element would address regional roadways within the Bonita urbanized area that are part of the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Area to Immokalee Road in Collier County. The regional CMP coordination would fulfill commitments made during last year's Legislative discussions of a possible Collier MPO and Lee MPO Consolidation Feasibility Study. A draft scope was provided for committee review and comment at the November 20, 2024 CMC meeting.

**Mr. Kingston** reviewed the draft scope which can be viewed in the January 15, 2025 CMC Agenda.

*Mr. DeLeon moved to endorse the Regional Lee and Collier Congestion Management Process (CMP) Element Scope of Services. Ms. Homiak seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**C. Review and Comment on Lee and Collier MPO Consolidation Feasibility Study Scope of Services**

**Mr. Kingston** said the Scope was prepared by Lee and Collier MPO staff and shared with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for consideration as they start the procurement process. The Scope proposes that the project be jointly managed by both MPOs and FDOT. FDOT was engaged in discussions with the Center for urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida to conduct the study.

This is in response to proposed state legislation during the 2024 Florida Legislative Session and recent support by local legislators and elected officials, with FDOT is providing \$250,000 to study the feasibility of consolidating the Lee and Collier MPOs. The study was being presented to both the Collier and Lee MPO Boards.

**Mr. Scott** said that he and **Ms. McLaughlin** reviewed the original scope and agreed that it required more detail and information and assessed that consulting a third party to lead the study might be the best process For the Lee and Collier MPOs. FDOT reached out to the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) to take part to address issues such as, voting process, benefits and disadvantages of a merger, and organizational structure (the Lee MPO being an independent agency and the Collier MPO, a leaning agency of Collier County).

In 2023, Florida Legislature passed a law requiring the Hillsborough TPO, Forward Pinellas, and Pasco MPO to submit a study on the benefits, costs, and process of merging into a regional Tampa Bay Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and consolidation considerations, such as voting apportionment concerns regarding smaller local jurisdictions were still being discussed.

A group discussion followed, and it was agreed that it might be beneficial to begin the preparation process for a study rather than be blindsided by immediate legislation by gathering the necessary information, and though it is FDOT's scope, the MPOs are involved to present the process to their respective Boards and provide comments and there would be further presentations of the study in the future.

*\*This item was presented for review and comment only*

## **9. Member Comments**

**Mr. DeLeon** said that as part of the development of the Transit Development Plan, there would be two public workshops to obtain public input on February 6 and February 12, 2025.

## **10. Distribution Items (No presentation)**

### **A. 2025 Board approved 2025 Meeting Schedule**

*This item was distributed.*

## **11. Next Meeting Date**

*March 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. South Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.*

## **12. Adjournment**

There being no further comments or business to discuss, **Mr. Hall** adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.