

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization
Board of County Commission Chambers
Collier County Government Center
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor
Naples, FL 34112
June 13, 2025 | 9:30 a.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present (in BCC Chambers)

Commissioner Dan Kowal, *Chair*
Council Member Tony Pernas, *Vice-Chair*
Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr.,
Commissioner Burt L. Saunders
Commissioner Chris Hall
Commissioner Rick LoCastro
Council Member Linda Penniman
Council Member Berne Barton

Members Absent

Council Member Bonita Schwan

MPO Staff

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

FDOT

Wayne Gaither, Director, District 1 Southwest Area Office
Marcellus Evans, District 1 Community Liaison
Nicole Harris, Project Manager

Others Present

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney
Trinity Scott, Department Head, Collier County Transportation Mgmt. Services
Lorraine Lantz, Planning Manager, Collier County Transportation Planning
Omar De Leon, Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit
Edwin Miguel, Intern, Collier Area Transit
Shawn Swets, AIM Engineering & Surveying
Wade Carroll, Pond & Company

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Kowal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Ms. McLaughlin requested approval for an amended agenda to add item 9F to approve the Transportation Regional Incentive Program priorities which had been presented for review at the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve amending the agenda and **Vice-Chair Pernas** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve the amended agenda and **Commissioner Saunders** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

4.A. Approval of May 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

4.B. Adopt Annual Update to the Local Coordinating Board Bylaws

4.C. Ratify the Community Transportation Coordinator Local Coordinating Board Annual Evaluation

4.D. Ratify the 2025 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Annual Update

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve the previous minutes and consent items and **Commissioner LoCastro** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

6. AGENCY UPDATES

6.A. FDOT

Mr. Gaither said FDOT had been tracking litter in Collier County and that in April, 35 tons of trash was collected from arterial roads and 13 tons along I-75. A total of 31 tons of waste was collected from rest areas. It was noted that, in addition to travelers, some local residents had also been using the facilities for waste disposal. **Mr. Gaither** also reported that although the state budget was still pending, FDOT was actively preparing to advance projects once funding was available, working closely with MPOs to collect and review project details to ensure readiness for a timely rollout. Following L.K. Nandam's departure, the search for a new District 1 Secretary had been initiated. Signatory authority had been established for District 1 and operations would continue normally.

Council Member Penniman inquired about the status of an FDOT project on US 41 at Golden Gate Pkwy in the City of Naples and whether elevating the roadway was still being considered to address the drainage issues.

Mr. Gaither said the cost of the project had risen from \$29 million to \$50 million for which additional funding was needed. In response to the cost increase, FDOT had reduced the scope of the project to solely address the drainage issues. There would be improvements to the road, but it was determined that there was no need to raise the roadbed, noting that the cost of raising the road would be significant as well as impact local businesses in the area.

Chair Kowal mentioned that because the road had settled with time, some sections of the road had become lower than originally engineered, which was causing water to pool in certain areas. Road improvements would reinforce the sections of the road that had settled, building the road back up to its original level. This would mitigate drainage issues and pooling water.

Mr. Evans said he had reached out to Keep Collier Beautiful regarding the litter issue. They said they don't coordinate roadside clean-ups due to safety concerns and that it's easier to get volunteers to go to the beach than the side of the road.

6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. McLaughlin acknowledged the fine job staff did while she was away, recognizing **Ms. Hansen** for running the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting.

7. CHAIR REPORTS

7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

7.C. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

7.E.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report

The report was presented in writing.

8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)

8.A. Adopt Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program and Approve Authorizing Resolution

Mr. Kingston said that every year the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is updated and requested that the Board adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2030 TIP and approve its authorizing Resolution, developed by the Collier MPO in cooperation with FDOT. The TIP had been presented for Board review and comment at the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting. Significant changes to the TIP included the addition of maps to the project sheets as well as updates to the interactive map.

***Council Member Penniman** moved to adopt Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program and Approve Authorizing Resolution and **Vice-Chair Tony Pernas** seconded.*

Roll Call Vote.

***Chair Kowal** - Yes*

***Vice-Chair Tony Pernas** - Yes*

***Commissioner McDaniel** - Yes*

***Commissioner Saunders** - Yes*

***Commissioner Hall** - Yes*

***Commissioner LoCastro** - Yes*

***Council Member Penniman** - Yes*

***Council Member Barton** - Yes*

Passed unanimously.

REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)

9.A. Approve a New Member Appointment to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Ms. Miceli said resident of Marco Island, former engineering program director, and member of the Medford NJ Planning Board, David Costello, has been an avid recreational bicyclist for over 40 years. He has dedicated decades of service to local community organizations and is an active member of the Marco Island Sunrise Rotary Club. Council Member Schwan expressed her recommendation of Mr. Costello, and

staff felt that with his extensive experience in development, management, and strategic community planning, Mr. Costello would bring years of professional expertise and community-minded experience to the BPAC.

***Commissioner LoCastro** moved to approve Appointment to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and **Council Member Barton** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

9.B. Approve the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant and Authorizing Resolution

Ms. Hansen said every fiscal year the Collier MPO enters into a Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant Agreement with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to provide funding for the MPO to fulfill its role as the designated official planning agency for the TD program in Collier County. The grant award for FY 2025/26 is \$31,757. The funds are used as described in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which includes annual updates to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan, an annual performance evaluation of the paratransit system, an annual public workshop and training session, administration of LCB, and staff attendance at TD training events. The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB) approved the grant application and accompanying resolution at its May meeting.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve Fiscal Year 2025/26 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant and Authorizing Resolution and **Commissioner Saunders** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

Commissioner McDaniel noted that the County has received numerous requests from transportation-disadvantaged residents seeking improvements to the paratransit system. Upon reviewing the materials included with the agenda item, he observed that the grant funding was primarily allocated for planning initiatives. He expressed a preference for directing those funds toward tangible transportation system enhancements that would more directly benefit the community members in need.

Ms. Hansen said that the TD grant is directed toward planning initiatives and that Collier Area Transit (CAT) has a separate grant for operations and more direct assistance to transportation-disadvantaged community members and continues to work towards that goal.

9.C. Approve Amendment 2 to the FY 2024/25-2025/26 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Hansen said the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes the MPO's budget and a schedule of deliverables for a two-year period. Amendment 2 was prepared to modify the transit planning budget for outstanding Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305 transit planning grants as well as reallocating some Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funds for consultant services, operating expenses, staff salaries, and travel.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve Amendment 2 to the FY 2024/25-2025/26 Unified Planning Work Program and **Commissioner Saunders** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

9.D. Approve Updated Transit Priority List for 2025

Ms. Hansen said the Collier Area Transit (CAT) submits new transit project priorities on an annual basis to the MPO, guided by plans such as the Major Transit Development Plan, the Park and Ride Study, and the Transit Asset Management Plan. The 2025 list contains only updated projects from the previous year. The Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees endorsed the list at their April meetings. The list was presented for Board review and comment at the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting, during which a question was raised regarding the process used to establish project priorities.

Mr. De Leon said the projects on the Transit Priority List are prioritized by evaluations and rankings established in the completed studies and plans, which are based on needs and the anticipated success of each project.

A group discussion followed regarding expectations for project completion and how funding allocations were determined. It was noted that funding considerations are tied to geographic areas, capital improvement needs, as well as the importance of evaluating existing service level. The process used to rank transit routes is based on criteria like potential ridership, and priorities can change when a project lower on the list becomes more viable. It was also noted that while annual costs are relatively easy to estimate, projections become less reliable the further out they extend. The major update to the Transit Development Plan would incorporate a 10-year outlook, including inflation multipliers to help refine long-term cost estimates.

Commissioner McDaniel moved to Approve Updated Transit Priority List for 2025, and Commissioner Saunders seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.E. Approve Annual List of Priority Projects for SU Box Funding

Ms. McLaughlin said the annual List of Project Priorities (LOPP) for Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban (SU) and Transportation Alternative (TA) funds (collectively referred to as the MPO's "SU Box funds") for submission to FDOT for future programming was presented for Board review and comment at the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting, where questions regarding project cost increases were raised. The City of Marco Island's Bald Eagle Dr Bike Lanes project, programmed for \$1.5 million in FY28, reported a funding shortfall in construction funding of \$823,000 in August 2024 due to updated cost estimates, and the Everglades City Phase 3 Bike-Ped Master Plan Sidewalk in 2020 was estimated at \$1.3 million for design and construction and has now been programmed by FDOT for \$1.8 million.

Council Member Pernas moved to Approve Annual List of Priority Projects for SU Box Funding and Council Member Penniman seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.F. Approve the 2025 Joint Lee-Collier Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities

Ms. Hansen said the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) is a discretionary grant program that provides State matching funds up to 50% for projects identified and prioritized by regional

partners which meet certain criteria. The Collier MPO and Lee MPO coordinate on regional projects every year. This list was presented for Board review and comment at the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting. 2025 changes include two Collier projects and one Lee project. The Collier projects are Santa Barbara/Logan Blvd widening from 4 to 6 lanes from Painted Leaf Lane to Pine Ridge Road, including adding bike lanes and sidewalk improvements at \$3.1 million for design; and Pine Ridge Road widening from 4 to 6 lanes from Logan Blvd to Collier Blvd to include bike/ped improvements and fill-in current gap in facilities at \$2.9 million for Preliminary Engineering (PE). The Lee project is Ortiz Ave widening from 2 to 4 lanes from SR 82 to Luckett Road at \$8 million for construction.

A group discussion followed regarding micromobility and project prioritization. It was noted that micromobility would be addressed in the upcoming Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) and that bike/ped projects would take guidance from recent County ordinance updates, adding buffered bike lanes where possible.

Commissioner McDaniel raised concerns about whether all projects on the TRIP list align with expected transportation efforts in Collier County, questioning the validity of the Randall Blvd to Everglades Blvd 8th widening PE project, given that a widening initiative was already in progress for Everglades Blvd from Oil Well Road to as far as Vanderbilt Road, and possibly even Golden Gate Pkwy.

Ms. Scott requested the Randall Blvd to Everglades Blvd 8th widening PE project be removed from the TRIP list due to its inconsistency with the established 5-year program approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

***Commissioner McDaniel** moved to approve the 2025 Joint Lee-Collier Transportation Regional Incentive program (TRIP) Priorities with the condition that the Randall Blvd to Everglades 8th widening PE project be removed, and **Commissioner Hall** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

10. PRESENTATIONS (MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION)

10.A. FDOT Presentation on I-75 from Golden Gate Parkway to Corkscrew Road widening and Immokalee Road Interchange Improvements - PD&E Study Update

Ms. Hansen said FDOT was conducting a Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E) on capacity enhancement and other improvements on the I-75 corridor from Golden Gate Pkwy to Corkscrew Rd and Immokalee Interchange improvements.

Mr. Swets provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the June 13, 2025 MPO Board Agenda).

A group discussion followed regarding community concerns about noise impacts in the Cypress Woods area and it was noted that the project would adhere to the FHWA-approved process. FDOT had not yet received the draft noise document from the consultants, but once available, it would be posted on the project webpage with Frequently Asked Questions and informational videos. Projected future development and traffic analysis had been considered in the model. A request to be aware of an issue with the Immokalee

Loop at S.R. 29 in the Moving Florida Forward Initiative was made. The I-75 /Vanderbilt Beach overpass will be reinforced. Traffic detours will be included in the plans.

11. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

12. MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hall said he needed to learn more acronyms.

Chair Kowal recommended going to the MPOAC Workshop where he received a list of acronyms.

Ms. McLaughlin said she would send a list of acronyms to Board members.

Commissioner Saunders wished everyone a nice summer vacation.

Commissioner McDaniel said he would like to work with **Ms. McLaughlin** to discuss the management of Transportation Disadvantaged Plan funding for the purpose of distributing funds in a way that would more directly and positively impact those in need while ensuring alignment with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and FDOT.

Commissioner Locastro asked the Collier Area Transit (CAT) high school intern to introduce himself to the Board.

Mr. Miguel said he is a Palmetto Ridge High School student and wants to go to University of Florida to study Mechanical Engineering and possibly do something space related.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

13.A. September 12, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112.

14. ADJOURN

*There being no further business, **Chair Kowal** adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:31 a.m.*