

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Collier County Government Center, Administration Building (F)
IT Training Room, Fifth Floor
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL, 34112
March 18, 2025 - 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Matonti called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Roll Call

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

Members Present

Anthony Matonti (Chair)
Michelle Sproviero (Vice-Chair)
Joe Bonness
Kevin Dohm
Mark Komanecky
Robert Phelan
Robert Vigorito
Patty Huff
David Sutton

Members Absent

Alan Musico
Dayna Fendrick

MPO Staff Present

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Others Present

Bonita Schwan, Councilor, City of Marco Island and MPO Board Member
Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition
Kathy Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planning (arrived during 7B)
Tanya Merkle, FDOT
Anthony Arfuso, Capital
Victor Nguyen, Capital
Olti Sefa, Collier County Solid & Hazardous Waste Management
Paul Greco, Countryside Golf & Country Club
Mahmoud Bennett, Fox 4

3. Approval of the Agenda

***Mr. Bonness** moved to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by **Ms. Sproviero**. Carried unanimously.*

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.A. Approval of the February 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sutton commented that the minutes did not include his statements about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). He requested reanalysis and editing of the minutes. **Mr. Kingston** mentioned that he could look into it and make the change.

***Mr. Sutton** moved to review for approval of the February 18, 2025, minutes at the May 20 meeting. Seconded by **Mr. Komanecky**. Carried unanimously.*

5. Open to the Public for Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Avola-Brown remarked that the legislative session started in the beginning of March. We are pushing for hands-free cell phone legislation in House Bill 501 and Senate Bill 1318. Last year it was supported by all committees. This past Wednesday, Chair of Government Operations Subcommittee on the House blocked it. The House Speaker is supportive. Representatives Linda Chaney and Will Robinson are opposed. Please email them to put it on the agenda. **Council Member Schwan** mentioned that the MPO did send a letter in support.

Ms. Avola-Brown continued, how she has been trying to reach out to the Collier County School Board to include a short quiz that is on the Florida Bicycle Association website as safety training that also includes monetary rewards. She recommended the BPAC contact the schools because there are resources to prevent these tragedies from happening.

***Mr. Phelan** made a motion to request the MPO to write a request that the School District pursue an education initiative. Seconded by **Mr. Sutton**. Carried unanimously.*

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. Merkle mentioned that she is filtering through the last of the SUN Trail applications before they go to Central Office. Regarding the Collier to Polk Trail, FDOT is in the process of retaining consultants for the Project Development and Environment study. It's being done in three segments.

Mr. Bonness asked about the 16 bicycle fatalities mentioned last meeting and asked what types of bikes were used. He then asked if FDOT was strategizing any public education to address the fatalities.

Ms. Merkle answered saying she would investigate it.

B. MPO

Mr. Kingston reported that the plans that are in process, the Long Range Plan, Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and Transit Development Plan continue to develop. The second round of tribal meetings will be occurring with Miccosukee Tribe on April 2 and Seminole Tribe of Florida on April 8. The joint meeting with Lee MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee is coming up on April 22 to replace the regularly scheduled BPAC in April as outlined in this agenda packet. He requested to hear what ideas for items the Committee would like to bring to that meeting. Ron Gogoi, Principal Planner from Lee MPO and he have brought together some topics, including micromobility, the current projects that are in the neighboring area between Lee and Collier Counties, the

highlights in the BPMP developments, and an FDOT update. There was also a compelling presentation on the major developments of the RSW Airport at the recent Lee Transportation Management and Operations Committee which could be requested to be presented again by Ian Sikonia of the Lee County Port Authority. Are there any suggestions to bring to this meeting?

Mr. Bonness recommended the SUN Trail addition or connection from Shady Hollow Boulevard to Bonita Beach Road, going through the CREW lands to connect to the Imperial Bike Trails. It connects Corkscrew across the Imperial River Flow way. It would be an elevated or bridged pathway. They have about a half mile of elevated boardwalk. He mentioned he brought this up at the last BPAC to be added to the BPMP Needs.

Council Member Schwan announced at last Friday's MPO meeting that the Commissioners decided to put the ebike ordinance on the Board of County Commissioners agenda, to ask law enforcement to attend that meeting to address the enforcement issues. She recommended attendance from BPAC at this to provide testimony.

Mr. Matonti asked if there could be a theme for the joint meeting. It looks by the sound of it that it is generally just "growth." Even though it is a BPAC meeting, it would help to hear something different from the airport. It would give a good perspective of how much growth is occurring in Southwest Florida. He recalled how with international flights from Germany coming to the Tampa airport there was a large influx of riders going to the trails. It could pull in something that we wouldn't realize that it would. *A group discussion about bicycle tourism ensued.*

Ms. Sproviero asked about an update on the Bonita-Estero Rail Trail (BERT). Is funding coming? Are grants being written? This could be on the agenda.

Ms. Avola-Brown mentioned she could give a legislative update on Hands-Free. The legislative session is happening now. The next BERT meeting is next Wednesday March 26 at Bonita-Estero Elks Club.

Mr. Matonti recommended bringing what reports are available on ebike regulations.

Ms. Merkle replied to Mr. Matonti's comment on regulation that where FDOT is responsible for construction, local governments are responsible for maintenance and enforcement, implying local governments to be the best source for this request.

Mr. Komanecky commented that it would be interesting to see the realities of enforcement, how it is commencing and how to give guidance for other communities to take that on.

Ms. Huff remarked that education needs to be considered, especially considering the recent death of a 14-year-old child on an ebike. It may be that kids don't understand how powerful these bikes are. They're not even driving yet and they're out with the ebikes doing what would be done in a vehicle.

7. Committee Action

A. Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) – Review and Comment on Draft Plan – Continued from February meeting

Mr. Kingston gave a briefing on the status of the drafting of the BPMP. This same item was presented to the BPAC at their February meeting and has continued to give the Committee additional time

for review. This is the final review of the first draft before the final draft is brought to the Committee for their review in May. Capital is here to provide a presentation on the comments received last meeting and the changes they propose to address them. *Mr. Arfuso provided the presentation as enclosed in the meeting materials and answered questions the Committee posed.*

When presenting the slide on changes to Priority Projects for Everglades City, **Ms. Huff** commented that McLeod park is spelled with a capital “L.” **Mr. Arfuso** acknowledged that he would make the change.

The Committee agreed to accept the Option 1 change to the Local Projects Scoring Matrix, introducing a new Education category worth 10 points and reassigning 5 points to Safety. The Committee agreed to accept the Option 1 change to the Regional Projects Scoring Matrix, introducing a Feasibility criterion worth 10 points and reassigning 5 points to Safety. **Ms. Sproviero** proposed to add text to the Multimodal criteria to include accommodations for underserved populations. **Mr. Vigorito** supported her suggestion, along the lines of recommending “every effort will be made to eliminate barriers and enhance ADA accessibility to promote inclusivity for all individuals of all abilities.” **Mr. Arfuso** agreed to rework the Multimodal Connections Criteria to acknowledge these comments. **Mr. Komanecky** proposed to add to the goal of Efficiency, to reduce congestion. **Ms. Sproviero** concurred. **Mr. Arfuso** acknowledged to rework the document to include this proposal.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Member Comments

Ms. Huff announced the Office of Greenways and Trails meeting is in Everglades City on April 10 and 11. **Mr. Phelan** asked to have safety data brought to either the joint or May meeting. **Ms. Merkle** answered that the data from Signal 4 may not specify if the data will separate the different users being affected and that she would look into it. **Mr. Kingston** answered that the Comprehensive Safety Plan is being developed with data analysis and it may be appropriate for a joint meeting topic.

10. Distribution Items

A. County Attorney Memo on Florida E-Bike Laws and Ordinances

11. Topics for Next Meeting

12. Next Meeting Date

Joint Meeting with Lee County MPO’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinating Committee

April 22, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. Location: Collier County Government Services Center at Heritage Bay Meeting Room, 15450 Collier Boulevard, Naples, FL 34120

13. Adjournment

Mr. Matonti adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.