

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Homiak called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

CAC Members Present

Karen Homiak, *Chair*

Fred Sasser, *Vice-Chair*

Becky Irwin

Dennis DiDonna (*arrived during Item 4.*)

Dennis Stalzer

Neal Gelfand

Josh Rincon

Harry Henkel

Michelle Arnold

Misty Phillips (*left during Item 7.A.*)

Kevin Dohm

CAC Members Absent

N/A

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

Others Present

Katherine Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planning

Marcellus Evans, FDOT Community Liaison

Alex Showalter, Collier Area Transit, Senior Planner

Omar De Leon, Collier Area Transit, Transit Manager

Juan Suarez, Benesch

Others Present by ZOOM

Wally Blain, Benesch

3. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Hansen asked to move item 8.A., Draft Transit Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan by Benesch to be heard after item 6., Agency Updates.

Mr. Sasser moved to approve the proposed revised agenda. Mr. Henkel seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the February 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Arnold moved to approve the February 24, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Mr. Evans had nothing to report.

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin said that today, during the lunch hour, FDOT reported that the State of Florida had agreed to return carbon reduction CARU and CARB funds to the federal government. The narrative portions of the Draft Transportation Improvement Program are based on the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program snapshot released in November, so there may be significant changes in its re-release in April.

7. Committee Action

A. Review and Comment on the First Draft FY26-30 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. McLaughlin announced that the presentation would cover the narrative portion of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Project Sheets portion will follow later because the final FDOT snapshot won't be produced until April due to the timing of this year's legislative session. An interactive map is available to get an idea of the projects in store, which will be updated with the approval of this TIP. The narrative portion has been updated to current state and federal requirements and publications, local statistics and projects. The TIP is being presented now for Committee initial review to get feedback (comments were requested to be provided within two weeks). A further updated draft TIP is anticipated to be brought back in April for review, and then for Committee endorsement in May.

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the draft TIP narrative portion (which can be viewed in the March 24, 2025 CAC agenda).

Mr. DiDonna and **Mr. Henkel** expressed interest to preserve the Everglades City Airport. There is a study underway to evaluate whether Everglades City Airport could even be closed, if that is the course of action desired, and costs associated with either closing the airport or making it profitable. **Ms. McLaughlin** replied that Mr. Bryant Garrett, the Collier County Airport Authority Executive Manager of Airport Operations, is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee. **Mr. Sasser** asked to see the study at a future meeting. **Ms. McLaughlin** answered she will ask Mr. Garrett if he can give a presentation on it once the study is prepared. In order to be fully informed, it seems best to have the study run its course and evaluate the findings and recommendations.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. Draft Transit Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan by Benesch.

Ms. Hansen announced that Collier County Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Division and the MPO have coordinated a transit zero and low emission fleet study, which evaluates the prospect of incorporating zero and low emission vehicles in CAT's fleet, including feasibility, the current state of alternative fuel technology and reliability, infrastructure needs, high-level cost estimates, and funding source opportunities. The study was to be presented to the MPO Board on April 11 and subsequently submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval. Completion of the study is a requirement for certain federal discretionary transit grants.

Mr. Suarez provided a presentation on the study findings and recommendations (as included in the meeting materials). A group discussion ensued thereafter. The committee asked questions which Mr. Suarez and Mr. Blain answered.

B. Update on Changes to the Draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

Ms. McLaughlin said the Bike/Ped Master Plan was presented at the last meeting as an action item and that Committee members indicated they would be satisfied with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) recommendations, so it did not require another round of review on their part. The update is included in this agenda as an informational item to show what changes are in progress since the committee last saw the Plan.

Mr. Kingston then gave this presentation prepared by project consultant, Capital, which was given to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (which is included in the meeting materials).

Ms. Arnold commented to eliminate redundancy of the use of the term, "safety" in the other goals as there already is a safety goal.

9. Member Comments

None.

10. Distribution Items

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

*April 28, 2025, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg., South Conference Room,
2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.*

12. Adjournment

Ms. Homiak adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.