

**CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Via ZOOM**

**May 20, 2020 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Khawaja called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

CMC Members Present

Tony Khawaja, Chairman, Collier County Traffic Operations
Karen Homiak, CAC Representative
Lorraine Lantz, Collier Co. Transportation Planning
Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement
Don Scott, Lee County MPO (*non-voting*)
Alison Bickett, City of Naples (arrived at 2:10 pm)
Dave Rivera, City of Naples (arrived at 2:10 pm)

****did not have a quorum at beginning of meeting but Chairman decided to proceed since no action items required voting*** Quorum was achieved at 2:10 p.m.*

CMC Members Absent

Tim Pinter, Vice-Chair, City of Marco Island
Dr. Mort Friedman, PAC Representative
Dan Summers, Collier County Emergency Management
John Kasten, Collier County School District

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner
Karen Intriago, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Pierre Beauvoir, Collier County Traffic Operations
Victoria Peters, FDOT
Trinity Scott, Collier County, Transportation Planning
Zachary Karto, Collier County, Public Transportation & Neighborhood Enhancement (CAT)
Bill Gramer, Jacobs Engineering
Felicia Kirby, Jacobs Engineering
Javier Ortiz, Jacobs Engineering
Ellen Miles, Jacobs Engineering

Wally Blain, Tindale Oliver
Valerie Nowotnick, Minute Taker

3. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Lantz moved to approve the agenda. Mr. DeLeon seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the January 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Lantz moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Homiak seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. Peters – Gearing up for new work cycle. Have been going through FY2022-2026 – just going through current and outer years of work programs to be prepared [for potential revenue shortfall due to COVID-19 closures]. Having ongoing discussions and vetting upcoming projects. Looking at FDOT projects to see if any can be deferred. During quarantine, had public meeting scheduled on I-75 ongoing studies but they were postponed. Swflinterstates.com has progress information on I-75 managed lane studies.

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin – MPO Board meeting to be held on June 12, 2020 will be virtual and encourage attendance by staff to be virtual.

C. City of Naples

Ms. Bickett – Discussed 8th Street project. Making progress on project overall. Started Phase 2 on April 20 – council meeting discussed stopping project but have since moved forward. Project from Central to 7th Avenue north.

Mr. Beauvoir – Network upgrade was approved by Board on May 24, 2020. RFP 20-7777 to be advertised shortly. Will create a selection committee and will choose best vendor once bids are received. Requested representative from City of Naples to participate in selection committee. Two projects pending: traffic count station project – waiting for 2 more pieces of equipment before project completed and then start implementation (Project #436971); (2) Project #433180 – arterial [roadways] PTZ (pan/tilt/zoom) cameras currently out as RFP. Want to purchase 81 PTZ cameras.

Ms. Lantz – working on Transportation Regional Incentive Program (“TRIP”) grants: (1) Collier Blvd – received design monies and need construction; (2) Randall – Vanderbilt Beach Road

extension from 16th to Everglades; (3) Santa Barbara Blvd. for enhancements to current network (intersection improvements) from Pine Ridge to Painted Leaf Lane. Applications are due to FDOT by July 1.

Mr. De Leon – operational changes due to COVID-19. Have been able to maintain all routes on the road. Approximately 65% decrease in ridership at height of pandemic. Slowly increasing again since [Governor's] Phase 1 [Re-opening] announced. Suspended fares as of March. Emphasis on keeping drivers and riders safe. Some staff was quarantined and unable to work so it required transitioning some paratransit busses to cover fixed routes. Implemented rear entry only on busses. Installed plexiglass on busses, face shields for drivers, gloves, sanitizers. Exploring ways to expand areas in bus to maintain social distancing. Arranged cooling busses for people waiting to be COVID-19 tested in Immokalee. Other projects include bus stop improvements in Immokalee. Shelters and ADA-compliance. Moving forward on Transit Development Plan. At end stage of testing mobile ticketing application. Riders can pay and plan their rides online through "CAT-Ride" app.

7. Committee Action

A. Transportation System Performance Report & Action Plan Update

Ms. Otero – Introduced Wally Blain with Tindale Oliver. **Mr. Blain** – Discussed Transportation System Performance Report (presentation in agenda packet). Outreach survey had great results. Explained 8-step framework (initially presented in January 2020) to address congestion. Reviewed performance measures in Baseline Conditions Report. Addresses wide range of congestion issues. Projects for existing plus committed roadway network [2045 Long Range Transportation Plan]: Vanderbilt Beach Road extension; Logan Blvd. extension; Airport Pulling from Vanderbilt Beach Road to Immokalee; Vanderbilt Beach Road from US 41 to Goodlette Frank. Bike/ped Master plan: gaps and substandard facilities; master plan has recommendations for complete street/safety studies. Mentioned existing CAT routes including areas with high existing ridership. Lengthy discussion of Congestion Management Process through steps 1-8. Speed-based results shows traffic volumes comparing November 6, 2019 to February 5, 2020. Identified "Hot Spot Crash Locations" and causes of congestion/severity. Working on converting Public Information Meeting to a virtual meeting. Good results on social media in response to posts about congestion and improving traffic flow. Received approximately 2,700 surveys. High traffic volumes mentioned as most significant issue. Seasonal traffic from visitors is most concerning. Inadequate roadway capacity is second most important. Ineffective traffic signals/poor timing is third most important. Most people not willing to change alternative mode of transportation. Prefer telecommuting, transit pass/discount, flex work schedules as alternatives. Identified Golden Gate Parkway between Santa Barbara and CR 951 as possible safety issue and need to create strategies for improved safety and congestion. Will follow up with committee in July to present new data and take final report to MPO Board in September.

Mr. Khawaja – asked for clarification of V/C value on spreadsheets. Numbers do not correlate to data in columns. **Mr. Blain** – column earlier in table called "Level of Service Standard" – sometimes D, sometimes E; V/C at zero is based on standard. Roadways that have tighter standard are going to have 1.0 met sooner. Level D or E can have level C conditions at a higher ratio.

Ms. Scott – impact of schools on congestion is more apparent since school is not in session. **Mr. Khawaja** – not necessarily school locations but entire school system. Not just students and parents but school deliveries, personnel, etc. **Mr. Scott** – commented about not being able to change schedule then but may have different response now with current circumstances.

Ms. Bickett – virtual schools are probably not viable. Congestion is significantly lower typically when school is out for the summer. **Mr. Blain** - public comments were mixed as to cannot change travel but also having already made changes to travel to the greatest possible extent. Some people cannot make changes at all. Retail location is dependent upon employees’ physical attendance. Cannot be a virtual position. Reviewing options as to how technology can be used effectively. COVID-19 presents new challenges that were not originally factored into plan. Teleworking/telecommuting is becoming more acceptable now.

Ms. Scott – school congestion is big problem. Change school time is an option and maybe times during the year for attendance. **Mr. Khawaja** – agreed that adjustment may be a good solution. **Ms. Bickett** – would have more time to enjoy with kids during winter months instead of summer. Brief discussion concerning options for changing school schedules, impacts to easing congestion, alternatives to traffic volumes.

8. Reports and Presentation

A. Park and Ride Study Introduction

Mr. Ortiz – discussed current progress of the Park and Ride Study (PowerPoint presentation in agenda packet). Population growth is approximately 2% per year. Development of Park & Ride facilities is to help alleviate traffic and congestion. Study is to identify and develop standardized methodology for locating, operating, and maintaining Park & Ride facilities. Referred to “Study Area” chart in presentation for specific study sites. Criteria used to evaluate possible facilities is visibility, transit linkage, location, access, and cost. Developed CAT Park and Site Evaluation Form to distribute for feedback. Will reach out to stakeholders, research funding opportunities, continue to research potential sites, and begin evaluation of potential sites.

Mr. Gramer – seeking input from committee members to identify areas that would benefit from Park & Ride facilities. Also suggesting combining Park & Ride facilities with shopping centers, churches, etc. to implement trip chaining. Mentioned partnering with County in charging stations. Brief discussion concerning what methods can be used to advertise and create interest in facilities including signage, designate locations that would be beneficial for commerce/retail usage, using website and public awareness campaigns. Will rank sites in priority of interest once funding becomes available.

9. Member Comments

None.

10. Distribution Items

N/A.

11. Next Meeting Date

*July 15, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.
2885 Horseshoe Drive North, Main Conference Room*

***May be virtual depending upon COVID-19 requirements-TBD*

12. Adjournment

*There being no further comments or business to discuss, **Mr. Khawaja** adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.*