

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

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present (in BCC Chambers)

Commissioner Burt L. Saunders

Commissioner Rick LoCastro, *Interim Chair beginning at item 4.A.*

Council Member Bonita Schwan

Council Member Berne Barton

Council Member Linda Penniman

Members Absent

Commissioner Dan Kowal, *Chair*

Council Member Tony Pernas, *Vice-Chair*

Commissioner Chris Hall

Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr.

MPO Staff

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

FDOT

L.K. Nandam, District 1 Secretary

Wayne Gaither, Director, District 1 Southwest Area Office

Marcellus Evans, District 1 Community Liaison

Rohan Sadhai, Congestion Management Multi-Modal Planner

Jason Heironimus, Public Information Officer

Erica McCaughey, Community Planner

Others Present

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney

Trinity Scott, Department Head, Collier County Transportation Mgmt. Services

Lorraine Lantz, Manager, Collier County Transportation Planning

Brian Wells, Director, Collier County Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Division

Omar De Leon, Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit

Alex Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier Area Transit

Anthony Matonti, BPAC Chair

Jeff Kramer, CUTR

Others Present via Zoom

Don Scott, Lee County MPO

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Rick LoCastro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ELECT INTERIM CHAIR OVER MAY 9, 2025 MEETING

4.A. Elect Interim Chair to Preside Over May 9, 2025 Meeting

Ms. Hansen explained that as Chair Kowal and Vice-Chair Pernas were not in attendance, an Interim Chair would need to be elected to preside over the May 9, 2025 MPO meeting.

***Commissioner Saunders** nominated **Commissioner LoCastro** to serve as Interim Chair over the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting and **Council Member Barton** seconded. **Commissioner LoCastro** accepted. Passed unanimously.*

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

5.A. Approval of the Agenda and April 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

***Council Member Penniman** moved to approve the agenda, previous minutes, and consent items and **Council Member Schwan** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Avola-Brown announced the annual Ride of Silence, a bicycling event to commemorate cyclists killed and support those injured while riding on public roads. She mentioned that event would occur on May 21, 2025 at 6 p.m. and invited Board members to attend.

Chair LoCastro mentioned that the feedback **Ms. Avola-Brown** provided regarding Ordinance 2025-22, addressing e-bikes and bicycle/pedestrian safety, was appreciated, and invited further comments

on the Ordinance.

Council Member Barton mentioned that the City of Naples City Council and mayor were hoping to attend the Ride of Silence, but that there was a City Council meeting scheduled for that day with a full agenda that might cause the Council meeting to continue past 6pm. **Council Member Barton** commended **Ms. Avola-Brown** for organizing the important event.

7. AGENCY UPDATES

7.A. FDOT

Secretary Nandam said that the State legislative session had been extended as the House and Senate were unable to come to an agreement regarding the State of Florida budget and Senate Bill 110, Senator Albritton's "Rural Renaissance Bill" (a bill that would foster opportunities for infrastructure improvements, education, and health care enhancements, for rural communities across Florida). The deadline to finalize the Florida budget would be June 6, 2025.

Another proposed House Bill, 5501, would reallocate the portion of the State's Documentary stamp tax revenue traditionally allotted to FDOT and redirect it into the general State fund. This would have a large impact on FDOT's Work Program, as approximately \$470 million of documentary stamp tax revenue is allocated to FDOT annually, funding multiple vital programs.

Secretary Nandam announced he would be leaving FDOT to work as a consultant in the private sector at the beginning of June. He thanked the Board for their partnership and positive experience during his 20-year tenure with FDOT.

The Board members expressed their gratitude to **Secretary Nandam** for his dedicated service and offered him their best wishes.

Mr. Gaither provided an update on the roadside litter issue, saying in March 2025, FDOT collected 32 tons of litter along approximately 416 lane miles of arterials, and 44 tons along approximately 301 miles on I-75.

Secretary Nandam added that although litter is collected three times a week, such large quantities of litter are dumped along roads and interstates, it is challenging to keep up. He noted that the money spent on constant litter collection could be better used to fund transportation projects, so FDOT plans to create a campaign to bring awareness to the litter issue.

A group discussion followed, and ideas like promoting the "Adopt a Highway" program, creating an incentivized volunteer clean-up program, implementing an education outreach program, making sure waste management trucks are securely closed, and reaching out to organizations like Keep Collier Beautiful were suggested.

Mr. Evans said the action items from the April 11, 2025 MPO Board meeting had been addressed. An investigation was underway to evaluate rough pavement areas and pipe inspections were in progress on US 41 & 6th Ave N. The ditch line cleaning along US 41 began at San Marco Rd. and would continue north until the ditches are complete. On SR 951, the Beck Blvd. closure would continue through May 16, 2025 for construction of elevated lanes in preparation for placing bridge decks. Drainage installation was in progress along the southbound lane.

7.B. MPO

Ms. Hansen said Collier MPO Executive Director, Anne McLaughlin, was traveling and was expected back the following week.

8. CHAIR REPORTS

8.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

8.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report

Report presented in writing.

8.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

8.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report

Report presented in writing.

8.C. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

8.C.1. Joint Collier Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Lee Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC)

Mr. Matonti said the committees discussed the possibility of building a continuous north-south trail network between the two counties by connecting current and proposed linear trails. The John Yarbrough Linear Park Trail in Lee County could lead into the proposed Bonita-Estero Rail Trail (BERT), which would end in northern Collier County and lead into the Livingston Corridor, continuing south through Collier County. The entire trail network would be mostly off-road.

On the topic of e-bikes, Lee County law enforcement explained that their goal of ordinances and regulations is voluntary compliance over enforcement. Sanibel implemented e-bike regulations and had seen improved conditions on sidewalks and share-use paths through citizen compliance. Other topics were distracted driving and keeping Collier and Lee County citizens safe amongst the growing population and tourism.

Full chair report was presented in writing.

8.D. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

8.D.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report

Report presented in writing.

9. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL)

9.A. Approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Capital Funds for the new Transit Operating and Maintenance Facility and Operating Funds to Support Hurricane Relief for Transit

Mr. Kingston said the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add two transit projects: operating funds for transit to support hurricane relief and capital funds for the new transit operating and maintenance facility.

***Council Member Penniman** moved to approve an Amendment to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Capital Funds for the new Transit Operating and Maintenance Facility and Operating Funds to Support Hurricane Relief for Transit. **Council Member Barton** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote.

***Commissioner LoCastro** – Yes*

***Commissioner Saunders** – Yes*

***Council Member Schwan** – Yes*

***Council Member Barton** – Yes*

***Council Member Penniman** – Yes*

Passed unanimously.

9.B. Approve an Amendment to the Collier MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (add Moving Florida Forward Funding for I-75/Immokalee Interchange Improvements)

Mr. Kingston said that Collier MPO added an amendment to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to add the Immokalee Interchange Improvement project, funded by the Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative, to the LRTP Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) to maintain planning consistency with FDOT's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2030 Work Program. The Immokalee Interchange project would be managed by FDOT, with a design build anticipated in FY26-28 at \$71.5 million.

***Council Member Penniman** moved to approve an Amendment to the Collier MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (add Moving Florida Forward Funding for I-75/Immokalee Interchange Improvements). **Council Member Schwan** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote.

Commissioner LoCastro – Yes

Commissioner Saunders – Yes

Council Member Schwan – Yes

Council Member Barton – Yes

Council Member Penniman – Yes

Passed unanimously.

10. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)

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

Ms. Miceli said Victoria Holmes is a Certified Athletic Trainer for Collier County Public Schools and an avid cyclist. Ms. Holmes is an advocate for health and safety through organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Naples Pathways Coalition, and Athletic Trainers' Association of Florida, and in her time as Director of Sports Medicine at Ave Maria University, she was honored with the Athletic Department's "GameChanger" award. Staff believe Ms. Holmes will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the BPAC.

Commissioner Saunders moved to approve a new member appointment to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Council Member Penniman seconded. Passed unanimously.

10.B. Review and Comment on Draft FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Kingston said the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was being presented to give the Board an opportunity to review and comment on the draft prior to taking action in June. He said part one of the TIP contains the narrative and project sheets and part two contains supporting documentation required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and noted that the project sheets are concurrent with FDOT's April 9, 2025 Work Program snapshot. Staff would continue to review and revise the draft until the June 13, 2025 MPO board meeting.

Mr. Kingston provided a presentation on the Draft FY 2026-2030 TIP (which can be viewed in the May 9, 2025 MPO Agenda).

This item was presented for information purposes only.

10.C. Review and Comment on Draft Transportation Regional Incentive Program Priorities for 2025

Ms. Hansen provided a brief presentation for items 10.C. to 10.F. (a copy of which can be obtained

by contacting the MPO).

Ms. Hansen explained that the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) is a discretionary grant program that provides up to 50% State matching funds for improvements identified and prioritized by regional partners which meet certain criteria. Collier and Lee Counties collaborate every year on a joint TRIP priority list.

Changes from last year's list include two Collier projects and one Lee project, all for FY31 funding. Collier County's project submittals 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 – requesting \$3.1 million for design; and Pine Ridge Road widening from 4 to 6 lanes from Logan Blvd to Collier Blvd.-requesting \$2.9 million for preliminary engineering, to include bike/ped improvements to fill in the current gap in facilities. Lee County's project submittal is Ortiz Ave widening from 2 to 4 lanes from SR 82 to Luckett Road-requesting \$8 million for construction.

The remaining prior year projects on the list have not been funded. The TRIP list was endorsed by TAC and CAC at their April meetings.

This item was presented for review and comment only.

10.D. Review and Comment on Updated Transit Priority List for 2025

Ms. Hansen said that Collier Area Transit (CAT)'s updated Transit Priorities List for 2025 includes various approved plans, including the Park and Ride Study, Transit Asset Management, and the Major Transit Development Plan. These Transit Priorities appear in CAT's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Transit Development Plan Annual Progress Report, which was approved by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners in July 2024 and ratified by the MPO Board last September. Although the 2025 Transit Priority List has been updated and refined from the 2024 version, it does not include any additional priorities. The list was endorsed by TAC and CAC at their April meetings.

Chair LoCastro asked how the rankings are decided and **Ms. Hansen** said that she would follow up with that question at the June 13, 2025 meeting.

This item was presented for review and comment only.

10.E. Review and Comment on the draft Annual List of Project Priorities for SU Box Funds (LOPP-SU)

Ms. Hansen said that the MPO receives around \$6.2 million per fiscal year in Surface Transportation Block Grant and Transportation Alternative funds to allocate toward its project priorities and likes to leave around \$500,000 unprogrammed each year to address cost overruns on projects. The MPO has a long-standing policy of rotating calls for projects for SU Box funds between bike/ped and safety and congestion management.

Prior to the Board's recent pause on issuing new calls for projects pending completion of the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Cost Feasible Plan, the call for projects was allocated to bike/ped for FY 31, for programming in the new year of next year's TIP. BPAC had one new priority project, submitted by Marco Island, for a 1.1 mile shared use path on 6th Avenue and East Elcam, requesting \$1.9 million. That project is included on the draft SU Box fund list in FY33.

Ms. McLaughlin had drafted the SU Box fund list with proposed prioritization as follows: first, projects deleted from the Draft Tentative Work Program for FY26-30; second, moving projects from design to construction; third, prioritized projects from prior years that remain unfunded; and fourth, new project priorities.

At the last Board meeting, Ms. McLaughlin noted that the State had returned carbon reduction grant funding to the Federal Government. FDOT was able to balance the work program, resulting in the elimination of three Collier projects from the FY26-30 work program: Lake Trafford Rd Sidewalk and Bike Lanes, construction, which is included on the list for FY31 funding; Naples Sidewalks on 26th Avenue, construction, on the list for FY31; and ITS Vehicle Detection Update at various arterial intersections, on the list for FY32.

The other two projects on the list for FY31 are included in an abundance of caution due to cost overruns, for which the overrun is not programed in the FY26-30 work program. Those projects are: Bald Eagle Drive bike lanes from San Marco Road to N Collier Blvd. There is an appx. \$800,000 cost overrun for construction in FY 28. The total project cost is included in FY31 in case construction needs to be deferred; and Everglades City bike/ped master plan. Funds are included in FY31. The work program opens again in July and funding may become available for the two projects prior to FY31. If funding is secured, the FY32 projects would bump up to FY31, pending project readiness.

TAC and CAC reviewed the draft lists at their April meetings. The final list would be presented to them for endorsement at their May meetings.

Chair LoCastro mentioned that care should always be taken when reviewing project bids as the Board looks closely at the integrity of project cost overruns.

This item was presented for review and comment only.

10.F. Preview Updated Status of Highway, Freight & Safety and SUN Trail Project Priorities for 2025

Ms. Hansen said the 2024 MPO's Highway, Freight and Safety Priorities funding status has been updated to reflect FDOT's final Work Program snapshot for FY 2026-2030. Additions include the Widening of SR 29 from north of New Market Rd. to SR 82: \$66.3 million for right-of-way, environmental and construction in FY26-27; the Immokalee Rd Interchange Reconfiguration: \$71.5 million for Design/Build in FY26-28; and Old US 41 Preliminary Engineering: \$3 million in FY 28 (updates to project parameters and estimates for this item are expected once FDOT completes its Project Development and

Environment (PD&E)). While the SR 29 & Oil Well Rd PD&E is not in the Work program, FDOT is working to complete the study.

Commissioner Saunders noted concern about the water management cost for the Old US 41 project, and reiterated that the Board had moved to change the project parameters to evaluate signalization options at the Old 41/Tamiami Trail intersection.

Secretary Nandam mentioned that the design phase for SR 29 & Oil Well Rd. lighting project had begun and would be programmed.

Ms. Hansen said Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUNTrail) project priorities would likely be identified upon completion of two PD&E studies led by FDOT: Collier to Polk Regional Trail and Livingston FPL Trail Extension from Radio Rd to Collier County Line. Trust for Public Lands has raised most of the funding for the Bonita-Estero Rail Trail (BERT) right-of-way acquisition.

These items were presented for informational purposes only.

11. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

11.A. FDOT Presentation on Advanced Air Mobility & Congestion Management Multimodal Planning

Ms. Hansen said that FDOT's District One Modal Development/Public Transit Office would provide presentations on FDOT's Congestion Management Multimodal Planning (C3MP) and Advanced Air Mobility Initiatives

Mr. Sadhai provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the May 9, 2025 MPO Agenda), highlighting the importance of the partnerships between the MPOs, DOTs, and regional modal agencies. District One established the C3MP Initiative in 2019, representing a new way of incorporating modal considerations into existing FDOT and MPO processes. With a focus on public transit, aviation, and freight, the vision of C3MP is to implement a coordinated, collaborative, and innovative approach to offering safe and reliable multi-modal transportation options to reduce congestion in Southwest Florida.

11.B. Collier and Lee County MPO Consolidation Feasibility Study – Kickoff Presentation

Ms. Hansen said that FDOT's consultant, the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) was kicking off Phase 1 of the Collier-Lee Consolidation Study. The MPOs have already begun providing information and documentation to CUTR for the study. Part of CUTR's scope of work includes a kick-off presentation to the MPO Boards.

Mr. Kramer provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the May 9, 2025 MPO Agenda), saying that federal and state laws require MPOs for urbanized areas (UZA) with populations over 50,000 and strongly encourage that a single MPO be designated for a UZA or contiguous UZAs. The Study objectives are to document current planning, business practices, current regional coordination practices,

and perceived benefits/drawbacks and concerns, to identify and clarify potential federal or state issues/barriers and develop a potential high-level apportionment plan for a consolidated MPO Governing Board. There would be a virtual kick off meeting on May 22, 2025.

12. DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

There were no distribution items.

13. MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Schwan said that the City of Marco Island City Council would receive a presentation by the Marco Island Chief of Police regarding the Marco Island Ordinance addressing e-bikes at their May 19, 2025 meeting. She would report back to the Board.

Council Member Barton thanked **Mr. Gaither** for FDOT's timely effort to clear the litter from I-75.

Council Member Penniman inquired about the Advanced Air Mobility presentation that was listed on the agenda but not presented.

Secretary Nandam said the presentation could be provided at the next meeting and mentioned that FDOT would be holding a workshop for Advanced Air Mobility to inform the local agencies how this mode of transportation would be integrated into all modes of transportation and what the roles and responsibilities would be for local communities.

Chair LoCastro said that he and the other Collier County Commissioners had recently returned from Washington D.C., where a big topic of conversation was MPOs and transportation. The Commissioners visited the Department of Transportation where Congressman Donalds spoke on the value of MPOs, and Congressman Díaz-Balart mentioned some of his major transportation projects.

Commissioner Saunders added that there was discussion regarding the necessity and importance of the completion of Everglades Blvd. and I-75 Interchange, as Southwest Florida continues to grow; to address congestion, as well as for emergency purposes. The federal government had appropriated funding for the project with Congressman Díaz-Balart's support. The Commissioners were also given guidance on how to request federal funding for transportation projects in Collier County.

Chair LoCastro thanked **Secretary Nandam** again for his efficient and dedicated service.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business, **Chair LoCastro** adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.