

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES
November 27, 2023, 2:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gelfand 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

Dennis DiDonna (*arrived during item 6.A.*)

Dennis Stalzer

Fred Sasser

Josh Rincon

Karen Homiak

Neal Gelfand, Vice-Chair

Josephine Medina (*arrived during item 6.A.*)

Michelle Arnold

CAC Members Absent

Elaine Middelstaedt, Chair

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Administrative Support Specialist II

Others Present

Victoria Peters, FDOT Community Liaison

Kyle Purvis, FDOT Planning Administrator, District 1

Lorraine Lantz, Manager, Collier County Transportation Planning

Alex Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier Area Transit

Jacob Stauffer, Collier Area Transit

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Rincon moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Stalzer seconded. Carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of the September 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

It was noted that **Mr. Rincon** was listed on both absent and present lists in the minutes, and staff confirmed the error would be corrected. Since **Mr. Rincon** was present, he would be listed on the “Members present” list only.

Ms. Arnold moved to approve the September 25, 2023 meeting minutes with the correction. Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.

5. **Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda**

None.

6. **Agency Updates**

A. FDOT

Ms. Peters: No updates. I am going to committee meetings and asking that if you are working with lobbyists or assisting others to fill out legislative budget requests, that they include limits on the project. There have been a lot of budget requests which have not included information regarding project limits, so we are requesting more specificity.

B. MPO Executive Director

None.

7. **Committee Action**

A. Endorse 2045 LRTP Amendment Adding Four Moving Florida Forward (MFF) Projects to the Cost Feasible Plan

Ms. McLaughlin: This is the first time we’ve needed to amend the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and it is in response to the Governor’s Moving Florida Forward (MFF) initiative and project funding identified by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Mr. Kingston reviewed the Collier MPO 2045 LRTP SIS Cost Feasible Plan Projects chart (which can be viewed in the [September 25, 2023 CAC Agenda](#)) that includes widening I-75 from six to eight lanes from Golden Gate to Corkscrew (a District-wide project involving Collier and Lee Counties), I-75 and Pine Ridge Road Interchange Improvement (a reconstruction of the interchange to a diverging diamond and a widening of Pine Ridge Road at that location), widening State Road (SR) 29 from two to four lanes from

New Market Road to SR 82, and constructing a new four-lane road as an extension of SR 29 for a loop around downtown Immokalee from County Road (CR) 846 to New Market Road.

Ms. McLaughlin: The changes are to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan within the 2045 LRTP. This part of the LRTP is funded by FDOT. At this morning's meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) voted to endorse this amendment with the inclusion of the construction costs for the I-75 Corridor Study as well as the I-75 at Pine Ridge Interchange, so that the 2045 LRTP would not have to be amended again.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the 2045 LRTP Amendment Adding Four Moving Florida Forward (MFF) Projects to the Cost Feasible Plan (with inclusion of construction cost estimates), and Ms. Arnold seconded. Carried unanimously.

B. Endorse Amendment to the FY 24-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for MFF Projects

Mr. Kingston: These are the TIP amendments that correlate with the MFF LRTP amendments. This is for the Committee to endorse an amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2028 Collier MPO TIP and authorizing resolution, which adds four projects funded by the Governor's Moving Florida Forward Initiative: I-75 from north of Golden Gate to south of Corkscrew for \$24,300,000, I-75 at Pine Ridge Road Interchange Improvement for \$6,339,858, SR 29 from CR 846 East to north of New Market Road West for \$9,626,335, and SR 29 from north of New Market Road to SR 82 for \$51,508,685.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add the MFF projects totaling approximately \$92 million. Staff recommendation is that the Committee endorse the amendment and authorizing resolution.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the Amendment to the FY 24-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for MFF Projects, and Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.

C. Endorse Amendment to the FY 24-28 TIP for Transit Reimbursement Resulting from Emergencies

Mr. Kingston: This is for the Committee to endorse an amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Collier MPO TTIP and authorizing resolution. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has requested the Collier MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add projects awarded to Collier County for operating and capital reimbursement for public transportation systems for protecting, repairing, and/or replacing equipment and facilities that may suffer or have suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency, including natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. The total amount of the awards is \$157,113. Staff recommendation is that the Committee endorse the amendment and authorizing resolution.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the Amendment to the FY 24-28 TIP for Transit Reimbursement Resulting from Emergencies, and Ms. Arnold seconded. Carried unanimously.

D. Endorse Amendment to the FY 24-28 TIP to add Funds to 16th Street NE Bridge Project

Mr. Kingston: This is for Committee endorsement of an amendment to the FY 2024-2028 TIP and authorizing resolution to add funds to the 16th St. Bridge project. The MPO asked Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), on behalf of Collier County, to add \$4,000,000 in FY 24 Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban (SU) funds to the 16th St. Bridge project. FDOT followed up and in turn requested the MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add the additional \$4 million in FY 24 SU funds and \$3,144,616 in local funds to the project, for a total FY 24 amount of \$11,859,616. This is for new bridge construction at 16th St. Bridge Northeast from Golden Gate to 12th Avenue Northeast. Staff recommendation is for Committee endorsement of the amendment and authorizing resolution.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the Amendment to the FY 24-28 TIP to add Funds to 16th Street Bridge NE Project, and Mr. Sasser seconded. Carried unanimously.

E. Endorse Amendment 5 to the FY 22/23 –23/24 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Hansen: The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies and describes the MPO’s budget for activities, studies, and technical support expected to be undertaken in the metropolitan area on behalf of the MPO Board during a two-year period. It also lists the funding source(s) for each planning task and specifies whether the task will be conducted by MPO staff, consultants, or county agencies. UPWP Amendment 5 substantive changes include: funding information for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program and associated Safety Action Plan (\$200,000 from USDOT; \$40,000 from Collier County; and \$10,000 from carryover MPO local funds) (Task 5), removes the Transportation System Performance Report from the scope of work (Task 5) and reallocates the associated FY 24 SU funding (\$50,000) toward the LRTP(Task 4), and reallocates \$13,000 in FY 24 personnel funding from Task 4 (LRTP) to Task 7 (Regional Coordination). I am available to answer questions, otherwise we are seeking endorsement of Amendment 5 to the FY 22/23-23/24 UPWP and associated resolution.

Mr. Sasser moved to endorse the Amendment 5 to the FY 22/23 –23/24 Unified Planning Work Program, and Mr. Stalzer seconded. Carried unanimously.

F. Endorse Addition of SR 29/CR 29 to the Office of Greenways and Trails SUN Trail Priority Network

Ms. McLaughlin: Since the last CAC meeting, when you endorsed the original addition of the Collier to Polk Trail to the SUN Trail Network, we received a letter from Senator Passidomo to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) supporting the addition of SR 29 to the Office of Greenways and Trails’ opportunity map. The purpose of the project is to connect Everglades City to Immokalee and continue north to the Collier to Polk Regional Trail alignments that have been presented to the Committee and the Collier MPO Board. Everglades City is advocating for the connection in acknowledgement of its status as a designated Trail Town and the fact that Senate Bill 106 specifically mentions providing access to Trail Towns. I will be asking FGTC to consider the additions of CR & SR 29 at their December 6, 2023 meeting. The master plan for the project is proposed to be completed by FDOT by July 24, 2024. FDOT

will be submitting for funding for the PD&E phase, with ongoing coordination with MPOs. FDOT will oversee all projects.

Mr. Rincon moved to endorse the Addition of SR 29/CR 29 to the Office of Greenways and Trails SUN Trail Priority Network, and Ms. Arnold seconded. Carried unanimously.

G. Review and Comment on FDOT's FY 2025-2029 Draft Tentative Work Program

Ms. McLaughlin: I added this to the agenda so the Committee could have the opportunity to review and comment on the projects in FDOT's FY 2025-2029 Draft Tentative Work Program. This iteration of the Work program was very generous to our area. The Summary of Changes on that last two pages of the Work program gives a brief overview of the main aspects of the program (and can be viewed in the [September 25, 2023 CAC Agenda](#)).

H. Endorse Regional Passenger Rail Study Joint Resolution and Application

Ms. McLaughlin: Lee MPO reached out to Collier, Charlotte, and Sarasota/Manatee to coordinate a joint resolution and application to submit to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council's Pilot Passenger Rail Priorities Program for a Southwest (SW) Florida Rail Study. Currently, the FDOT Freight and Rail Plan (updated in 2023) includes a map of the future passenger rail connections in the Southeast and Florida that includes a connection from Tampa down to Naples. The goal of the program is to expand rail options across the State of Florida while creating a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated multimodal network. Potential rail projects in Florida identified through this program will be communicated to FDOT to tap into funds available under the Florida Rail Enterprise, and federal discretionary rail grants available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The Rail Study would investigate the feasibility of running an intercity (Amtrak) or high-speed rail on I-75 in Southwest Florida using the multimodal transit envelope and connecting all four metropolitan areas with existing and planned passenger rail network at Tampa, with a cost estimate of \$1.75 million. The Lee MPO Board has adopted and signed the resolution. The proposal will go to the Collier MPO Board for action on December 8, 2023. We're asking for Committee endorsement.

Mr. DiDonna moved to endorse the Regional Passenger Rail Study Joint Resolution and Application, and Mr. Sasser seconded. Carried unanimously.

I. Review & Comment on FDOT Draft Functional Classification and Urban Boundary Changes

Mr. Purvis provided a presentation of the Federal Functional Classification and Urban Area Boundary Update, which can be viewed in the [November 27, 2023 CAC Agenda](#).

A group discussion followed noting that some of the effects the classification changes would have would be funding as well as creating more emergency routes.

Mr. Purvis: There is an Urban Area Boundary Map and Functional Classification information in a GIS based dashboard to for review and comment available: [D1 Functional Classification - Collier County \(arcgis.com\)](#). FDOT welcomes comments and is hoping to have FDOT and FHWA finalize the smoothed/adjusted Urban Area Boundaries by May 2024, with final submission by April 2025.

J. Endorse Amendment to FY 24-28 TIP to add Funds to the Green Blvd Project

Mr. Kingston: This is for the Committee’s endorsement of an amendment to the FY 2024-2028 TIP and authorizing resolution to add funds to the Green Blvd Project. The MPO asked FDOT, on behalf of Collier County, to add \$1,111,000 in FY 24 SU funds to the Green Blvd project to cover the increased construction cost and CEI (Construction and Engineering Inspection). FDOT followed up and in turn requested the MPO to amend its FY 2024-2028 TIP to add the \$1.111 million in FY 24 SU funds for construction of Green Blvd from Santa Barbara Blvd to Sunshine Blvd bike lane/sidewalk. Staff recommendation is that the Committee endorse the amendment and authorizing resolution.

Mr. Stalzer: A bike path on Green Blvd is a great idea, but the road has only two-lanes and gets congested. Are there plans to improve the road as well?

Ms. McLaughlin: I will research that and let you know. **Ms. Lantz:** It’s shown in the Long-Range Plan as a Need, but not funded.

Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the Amendment to FY 24-28 TIP to add Funds to the Green Blvd Project, and Mr. Stalzer seconded. Carried unanimously

8. Reports and Presentation (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Member Comments

Mr. DiDonna: Can we get Wiggins Pass Road upgraded to a connector? Recently, there has been a change of zoning, and all the new development has created congestion on Wiggins Pass. An east-west corridor is needed, and we are waiting for Veterans to be connected to U.S. 41. We are having to go through four or five lights to turn left onto Immokalee Road because of congestion.

Ms. Lantz: Wiggins Pass Road is classified as an Urban Major Collector.

10. Distribution Items

A. Administrative Modification to FY 24-28 TIP (Change Work Description for Three Transit Projects)

The item was distributed.

B. Administrative Modification to the FY 24-28 TIP (Add Funds for Bicycle Detection - City of Naples ITS)

The item was distributed.

11. Next Meeting Date

January 22, 2024, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. Main Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Gelfand adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.