

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES**

November 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lantz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

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

TAC Members Present

Lorraine Lantz, Chair, Collier County Transportation Planning Manager

Alison Bickett, Vice-Chair, City of Naples

Dan Hall, Collier County Traffic Operations

Don Scott, Lee MPO

Harry Henkel, City of Everglades

Omar De Leon, Public Transit Manager, Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Division (PTNE)

(arrived during item 6.A.)

Ute Vandersluis, Naples Airport Authority

TAC Members Absent

Daniel Smith, City of Marco Island

Dave Rivera, City of Naples

John Lambcke, Collier Schools Transportation

Justin Martin, City of Marco Island

Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Administrative Support Specialist II

Others Present

Brian Wells, Director, Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Division (PTNE)

Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier Area Transit (CAT)

Kyle Purvis, FDOT Planning Administrator, District 1

Trinity Scott, Department Head, Collier County Transportation Management Services

Victoria Peters, FDOT Community Liaison

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. Bickett moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Henkel seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Scott moved to approve the September 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Bickett seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. **Agency Updates**

A. FDOT

Ms. Peters: I don't have any 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 that the requests do provide limits.

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin: 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 our first amendment for the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It is going to the MPO Board on December 8, 2023. The amendment addresses the receipt of additional funding from the Moving Florida Forward program, allowing us to add projects to the 2045 LRTP, including 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.

We are fulfilling the LRTP public involvement process outlined in our Public Participation Plan by posting the amendment for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to review, as well as announcing the public comment period for the amendment on the MPO website

and via e-mail to applicable list-serve(s), which began on November 17, 2023, and ends with the MPO Board meeting on December 8, 2023. We have prepared an authorizing resolution for the amendment for good measure, although it is not technically required.

The major impact of this amendment is to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan within the 2045 LRTP. We are proposing the addition of the I-75 corridor study Project Development and Environment (PD&E), the interchange, and the SR 29 revisions. It creates consistency for the TIP, the FDOT Work Program, and the LRTP.

Mr. Scott: Shouldn't we also add construction costs for I-75?

Ms. McLaughlin: Great suggestion. We'll add construction costs to the Cost Feasible Plan.

Ms. Scott: Isn't I-75 at Pine Ridge already in Other Arterial (OA) funds? I believe the County had already planned on doing that.

Mr. Scott: I thought the original announcement FDOT sent out of Tallahassee had all the cost information in it.

Ms. McLaughlin: I can confer with Ms. Peters and include an addendum to the amendment adding the construction cost estimates.

Ms. Lantz 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 Mr. Henkel seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Kingston: This is for the Committee to endorse an amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2028 Collier MPO Transportation Improvement Program (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.

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

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

Mr. De Leon: After Hurricane Ian, there was an opportunity to obtain funding for the capital and operating expenses associated with the hurricane aftermath. We received an allocation for \$157,000 to cover operating and capital costs

Mr. Kingston: This is 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.

Mr. De Leon moved to endorse the Amendment to the FY 24-28 TIP for Transit Reimbursement Resulting from Emergencies, and Mr. Scott seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

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

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

Ms. Hansen: As most of you are aware, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) provides a planning work program that 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. 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 the attached Resolution.

Ms. Bickett moved to endorse the Amendment 5 to the FY 22/23 –23/24 Unified Planning Work Program, and Mr. De Leon 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 TAC 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. We will be asking FGTC to consider the additions CR & SR 29. FGTC meets December 6, 2023. 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.

A group discussion followed regarding the possibilities of how construction and maintenance of the trail might be funded between FDOT and local governments.

Ms. Bickett moved to endorse the Addition of SR 29/CR 29 to the Office of Greenways and Trails SUN Trail Priority Network, and Mr. Henkel 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.

Ms. Lantz: I do not see the SU box allocation.

Ms. McLaughlin: FDOT Central Office does not include the box allocation.

Ms. Peters: The box allocation fluctuates. I can send the box allocation information to you once a month.

Ms. Lantz: It would be helpful to know how much is in the box allocation for project completion projections.

H. Endorse Regional Passenger Rail Study Joint Resolution and Application

Ms. McLaughlin: We're asking the Committee to endorse the proposal of a joint resolution for submitting a Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Passenger Rail Program Priority for a Southwest (SW) Florida Rail Study. 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). Lee MPO reached out to Collier, Charlotte, and Sarasota/Manatee to coordinate a Joint Priority Request under this program for a 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 Lee MPO Board has adopted and signed the resolution. The proposal will go to the Collier MPO Board for action on December 8, 2023.

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.

Mr. Scott: The idea of extending the rail network to the east coast was discussed, but our plan is to adhere to the west coast rail network map that was already designed and take it one step at a time.

Ms. Lantz: Will the proposed Moving Florida Forward projects to widen I-75 remove the transit corridor?

Mr. Scott: The transit corridor will still be there.

A group discussion followed regarding the possibilities of the placement of the transit corridor along I-75 as well as the existence of bus and rail transit coexisting along the corridor.

Mr. De Leon moved to endorse the Regional Passenger Rail Study Joint Resolution and Application, and Mr. Scott seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

Ms. McLaughlin: We're asking for review and comment on FDOT Functional Classification and Urban Boundary Updates.

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

Mr. Purvis: We provided an Urban Area Boundary Map and proposed Functional Classification information in a GIS based dashboard to the County/MPO for review: [D1 Functional Classification - Collier County \(arcgis.com\)](#). FDOT will work with the MPO to address any comments or concerns and provide updates for final review. We welcome comments and are hoping to have FDOT and FHWA finalize the smoothed/adjusted Urban Area Boundaries by May 2024, with final submission by April 2025.

A group discussion followed regarding specific area classifications and possible adjustments of classification.

Ms. Scott: Committee members, before making your comments, I suggest that you touch base with your municipality's land use planners, as land use conditions may be affected by functional classification and urban boundary changes; as well as with your local transit, as there may be implications to transit grants.

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. Hall moved to endorse the Amendment to FY 24-28 TIP to add Funds to the Green Blvd Project, and Mr. De Leon seconded. Carried unanimously.

8. Reports and Presentation (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Member Comments

Ms. Lantz: Welcome Harry Henkel to our Committee. Thank you for joining us.

Mr. Henkel: Thank you. Glad to be here.

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, 9:30 a.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. Main Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Lantz adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.