

**Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Board of County Commission Chambers  
Collier County Government Center  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor  
Naples, FL 34112  
September 13, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair McDaniel** called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Present (in BCC Chambers)**

Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., Chair

Commissioner Dan Kowal, Vice-Chair

Commissioner Chris Hall

Commissioner Rick LoCastro

Council Member Tony Pernas

Council Member Berne Barton

Council Member Linda Penniman

**Members Absent**

Council Member Greg Folley

Commissioner Burt L. Saunders

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Dusty Hansen, Senior Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

**FDOT**

L.K. Nandam, District One Secretary

Wayne Gaither, Manager, District 1 Southwest Area Office

Jason Heironimus, Public Information Officer

**Others Present**

Scott Teach, Esq., Deputy County Attorney  
Trinity Scott, Department Head, Collier County Transportation Mgmt. Services  
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning, TAC Chair  
Michael Tisch, Collier County Transportation Engineering  
Brian Wells, Collier Area Transit  
Omar De Leon, Collier Area Transit  
Alex Showalter, Collier Area Transit  
Juston Martin, City of Marco Island Public Works, TAC  
Julianne Thomas, Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition  
Anthony Matonti, BPAC Chair  
Al Musico, Marco Island Bike Lanes and Shared Paths Committee, BPAC  
Sonal Dodia, Jacobs Engineering  
Bill Gramer, Jacobs Engineering

**Others Present via Zoom**

Wally Blain, Alfred Benesch & Company  
Colleen Ross, Jacobs Engineering  
Michael Baker, Jacobs Engineering

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chair McDaniel** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CONSENT ITEMS**

**4.A. Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes**

**4.B. Ratify an Amendment to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan, Major Update**

**4.C. Ratify Collier Area Transit’s FY2024 Transit Development Plan Annual Progress**

**Report**

**4.D. Approve FDOT District 1 Federal Functional Classification/Urban Boundaries Maps and Associated Resolution**

*Commissioner Chris Hall moved to approve the agenda, previous minutes, and consent items and Chair McDaniel seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

## **6. AGENCY UPDATES**

### **6.A. FDOT**

**Secretary Nandam** said FDOT was working on the annual Work Program and had finalized allocations. Statewide, revenue projections would see a decrease of \$116 million over the next ten years, approximately \$16 million per year down. He said rising costs of construction would cause the majority of Work Program challenges. He also said that the Planned Development & Environmental (PD&E) study for the SR 29 Widening Project had been approved, so the project would move forward.

**Mr. Gaither** said there would be a public hearing in early December 2024 for the 2026-2030 Work Program cycle. In-person and virtual meeting opportunities would be available, and comments would be received by FDOT Central Office. Construction for the I-75 and SR 951 Interchange Project was underway, and traffic deferrals were to be expected. The Florida Transportation Plan Update meeting was scheduled for September 26, 2024 in Venice FL. Discussions would include the overarching statewide plan that guides transportation over the next thirty years. FDOT was soliciting feedback for that planning process.

### **6.B. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said Collier MPO was working with FDOT on forging a path forward to get programmed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects fully funded in light of rising construction costs. The MPO was discussing the situation with committees and technical staff. She also said Collier MPO would be sending Board members a visioning survey for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), inviting the Board to share the survey with their constituents. She thanked the Board for sending their completed Collier MPO Executive Director annual evaluations.

## **7. CHAIR REPORTS**

### **7.A. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

#### **7.A.1. Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Report**

*Report presented in writing.*

### **7.B. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

#### **7.B.1. Technical Advisory Committee Chair Report**

*Report presented in writing.*

### **7.C. BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

#### **7.C.1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair Report**

**Mr. Matonti** said the Committee discussed how rising construction costs would affect project funding, received a presentation on the progress of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) Update, endorsed a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment to include the City of Marco Island's Collier Alternative Bike Lanes project, with some opposition, and discussed the most recent Call for Projects.

**7.D. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CMC)**

**7.D.1. Congestion Management Committee Chair Report**

*None.*

**7.E. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)**

**7.E.1. Local Coordinating Board Chair Report**

**Council Member Pernas** said the LCB reviewed and approved an Amendment to the 2023 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Major Update and the Community Transportation Coordinator's draft FY2023-24 Annual Report.

**8. REGULAR BOARD ACTION (ROLL CALL REQUIRED)**

**8.A. Approve Roll Forward Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program**

**Mr. Kingston** said the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Work Program Office provided the MPO with their annual Roll Forward report, which included projects from the previous state fiscal year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that were not authorized before the June 30th fiscal year end and would be incorporated into the FY2025-2029 TIP. The Amendment had been endorsed by the Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees.

*Council Member Pernas moved to approve Roll Forward Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and **Vice-Chair Kowal** seconded.*

**Roll Call Vote.**

**Commissioner McDaniel** – Yes

**Commissioner Kowal** – Yes

**Commissioner Hall** – Yes

**Commissioner LoCastro** – Yes

**Council Member Barton** – Yes

**Council Member Penniman** - Yes

**Council Member Pernas** – Yes

*Passed unanimously.*

**8.A. Approve an Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program**

**Mr. Kingston** said the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had requested the MPO to amend its FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Collier County Transit Maintenance Facility project to demolish and replace the existing building which has exceeded its useful life and was due to be replaced. The amendment would add \$4,190,000 in Congress General Fund Earmarks and \$1,047,500 in local funds for a total of \$5,237,500. The Amendment was endorsed by the Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees.

*Council Member Penniman moved to approve an Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and Commissioner LoCastro seconded.*

**Roll Call Vote.**

**Commissioner McDaniel – Yes**

**Commissioner Kowal – Yes**

**Commissioner Hall – Yes**

**Commissioner LoCastro – Yes**

**Council Member Barton – Yes**

**Council Member Penniman - Yes**

**Council Member Pernas – Yes**

*Passed unanimously.*

**REGULAR BOARD ACTION (NO ROLL CALL)**

**9.A. Approve a Work Order for Alfred Benesch & Company to Complete a Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan for Transit**

**Ms. Hansen** said that in order to receive certain discretionary grants, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) required that Collier Area Transit (CAT) develop a feasibility plan to evaluate the prospect of deploying zero/low emissions vehicles in CAT's fleet, including feasibility, infrastructure needs, power needs, high-level cost estimates, and funding source opportunities. The plan, referred to as the Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan, had been incorporated into the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program. The study would be done in collaboration with Collier County Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Division and a County Procurement selected consultant. Collier MPO was requesting to contract with said selected consultant, Alfred Benesch & Company, to prepare a Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan, who presented a proposal for \$98,540.

**Chair McDaniel** asked for the purpose of the proposal to be further defined.

**Ms. Scott** said FTA had added a large amount of funding to discretionary grant programs, and in order to be eligible to receive those discretionary grants, a Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan must be in place. The requirement is that the feasibility of zero/low emission be studied, not that the County convert

to all electric vehicles. Since Collier County is susceptible to hurricanes, converting to one hundred percent electric vehicles would be difficult, but there could be cost savings potential in converting some vehicles.

A group discussion followed, regarding the fiscal justifiability of the grant, whether it was limited to existing fleet conversion, and electric rail possibilities.

**Ms. Scott** responded by saying that local funds would not be used, that there was \$11 billion set aside for transit discretionary funds, that the funds only covered the current fleet, and that rail would most likely have to be a regional endeavor in collaboration with FDOT.

***Commissioner Hall** moved to approve a Work Order for Alfred Benesch & Company to Complete a Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan for Transit and **Council Member Penniman** seconded. Passed unanimously.*

**9.B. Approve the Use of SU funds to cover cost over-run on Marco Island's Collier Alternate bike/ped project.**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said the City of Marco Island requested an additional \$1.736 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant (SU) funds to cover cost overruns for the southern segment of the Collier Alternate Bike Lane Project to connect existing bike lanes.

***Mr. Martin** provided a presentation that can be viewed in the September 13, 2024 MPO Board agenda packet.*

A group discussion followed, regarding how the effects of widening the road would cause swales and residential mailboxes to be moved back, public awareness of the project, and the use of funds. It was ascertained that the residential road selected for the project seemed the best and safest route to connect existing bike lanes, and that the funds were earmarked for the Collier Alternate Bike Lane Project.

***Council Member Pernas** moved to approve the use of SU funds to cover cost over-run on Marco Island's Collier Alternate bike/ped project and **Chair McDaniel** seconded. Passed Unanimously.*

**9.C. Approve the Use of SU funds to cover cost over-run on the County's County Barn Road bike/ped project.**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that the County had requested an additional \$514,947 in SU funds to cover the construction cost overruns for the County Barn Road project. She said that item 9.B. and 9.C. were in fact, TIP Administrative Modifications, so were both eligible to move forward.

**Ms. Scott** said the installation of a shared-use path on County Barn Rd from Rattlesnake to Davis was funded based on cost estimates in 2014. The design phase was complete, stormwater improvements had been implemented, and construction was scheduled to begin in March 2025. The citizens were in favor of the project, which would construct a ten-foot path on the west side of the road.

*Ms. Scott provided a presentation [a copy of which can be obtained by contacting Collier MPO].*

*Commissioner LoCastro moved to approve the use of SU funds to cover cost over-run on the County's County Barn Road bike/ped project and Commissioner Hall seconded.*

**10. Reports and Presentations**

**10.A. Presentation on 2050 LRTP Process, Chapters 1 and 3; Public Involvement Plan**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that Jacobs Engineering, the MPO's consultant for the development of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and was assisting Collier MPO to kick-off the public involvement component of the 2050 LRTP.

*Ms. Dodia provided a presentation that can be viewed in the September 13, 2024 MPO Board agenda packet.*

**11. Distribution Items**

**11.A. Fiscal Year 2024/25 Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant Agreement**

*This item was distributed.*

**11.B. Administrative Modification No. 2 to Collier MPO's Fifth Amended FY 22/23-23/24 Unified Planning Work Program**

*This item was distributed.*

**11.C. Administrative Modification to the FY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (FDOT TIP Review Checklist Items)**

*This item was distributed.*

**11.D. Approve Letter Apportionment Plan**

*This item was distributed.*

**12. MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner LoCastro** asked **Mr. Gaither** to expedite the repair of the wall along I-75 where there had been a plane crash. He also requested that the trash along exits 101-111 along I-75 be cleaned and maintained, and said it was especially littered from the Jolly Bridge to the I-75 interchange. He mentioned that **Ms. Scott** had sent design drawings of the I-75/ Collier Blvd intersection project and requested that **Mr. Gaither** send him any status updates he had as well, so **Commissioner LoCastro** could inform his constituents. He also mentioned the traffic safety discussion at the recent Board of County Commissioners

(BCC) meeting and asked that FDOT participate in the discussions, as red-light cameras had come back as a discussion topic for the BCC.

**13. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**13.A.** October 11, 2024 - 9:30 a.m. Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

**14. ADJOURN**

*There being no further business, **Chair McDaniel** adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:57 a.m.*