

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Collier County Government Center, Administration Building (F)
IT Training Room, Fifth Floor
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL, 34112**

**September 19, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Matonti called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Roll Call

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

Members Present

Anthony Matonti (*Chair*)

Patty Huff (*Vice-Chair*)

Alan Musico

Andrea Halman

Dayna Fendrick

George Dondanville

Joe Bonness

Mark Komanecky

Robert Phelan

Members Absent

Kim Jacob

Michelle Sproviero

MPO Staff Present

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Administrative Support Specialist II

Others Present

Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning

Michael Tisch, Collier County Transportation Engineering

Reggie Wilson, Florida Department of Health

Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition

Tanya Merkle, Florida Department of Transportation [Arrived during 6B]

Adam Ahmad, Capital Consulting Solutions

Anthony Arfuso, Capital Consulting Solutions

Virtually Present

Katherine Chinault, FDOT

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Matonti: [Due to the technical issues with the projector] I suggest that we move items [with presentations] 8A and 8B, to behind items 8.C. and 8.D.

Mr. Musico moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Huff. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the May 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dondanville moved to approve the May 16, 2023, minutes. Seconded by Mr. Musico. Carried unanimously.

5. Open to the Public for Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT:

Ms. Merkle: We are in the process of finalizing the Call for Projects for SUN Trail, hoping to announce it in October. Will keep the MPO informed.

B. MPO:

Mr. Kingston: County Road 29 resurfacing and restriping is in progress in Everglades City. FDOT and MPO staff have worked together on this project in the past. Copeland Ave will be done next fiscal year.

Mr. Kingston invited Ms. Fendrick to speak on the matter.

Ms. Fendrick: The new pavement has been milled and replaced, they've improved several draining structures, and got the striping done. The bike lane is 5-foot wide, and the protective buffer is also 5-foot wide and will be striped diagonally to differentiate it from the actual bike lane.

A group discussion followed regarding the bike lane project.

7. Committee Action

A. Agenda Topics for Joint Collier/Lee MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Mr. Kingston: Lee and Collier MPO staff have scheduled a joint meeting at Lee MPO's BPCC regular time and location of 10 a.m., on October 24th at the Collaboratory. Lee and Collier MPO staff have considered regulatory and legal measures applied to pedestrians, bicyclists, micro-mobility users, and motorists as a potential agenda topic. Brainstorming more topics for the joint meeting is encouraged. **Ms. Avola-Brown** would like to present the Hands-free Distracted Driving campaign as an item for the joint meeting agenda.

Ms. Huff: I have an agenda item that could be added. U.S. Bike Route 15 is being planned for southwest Florida. It goes through several counties, including Collier and Lee. All involved counties have approved of the bike route, except Hillsboro. We're hoping to have Hillsboro's approval by October. If we have Hillsboro's approval soon, we could make FDOT's fall project approval deadline. I can bring a status update as an agenda item for the joint workshop.

A group discussion regarding the joint workshop followed, and it was agreed that U.S. 15., Rail Trail, Marco Loop and Hands-Free Florida Distracted Driving Campaign would be added to the joint workshop agenda.

Ms. Lantz: The date of the joint workshop falls on Collier County Board of Commissioners' meetings date, so you may not see a lot of county staff representation at the workshop.

More discussion about the workshop continued, and it was noted that although this item was listed as a Committee Action item, the Committee did not take action, but provided suggestions.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. Status of Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan 2025 Update as presented by Capital Consulting Solutions

Mr. Kingston: This is the status of Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update, presented by Capital Consulting Solutions. The objective is for the committee to receive this update regarding the preliminary schedule for the 2025 Master Plan Update. It's a means of unifying planning efforts to develop a first-class bicycle and pedestrian network throughout Collier County. This plan is updated every five years and incorporated into the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). And now, here's Capital Consulting Solutions to provide a presentation.

Due to technical issues, the presentation for 8.A. was heard after 8.C.

Mr. Ahmad introduced himself and gave a presentation prepared by Capital Consulting, which can be viewed here: [Collier MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan 2025 Update Presentation by Capital Consulting](#)

A group discussion followed, including the committee members' wishes to create more continuous alternative transportation networks in Collier County.

B. Update on Priority Trail Corridor Designation for the Collier to Polk Regional Trail System

Mr. Kingston: This is a report on the MPO Board action supporting the Priority Trail Corridor designation of the Collier to Polk Regional Trail system. FDOT has a proposed an addition to the Collier to Polk Regional Trail Priority Corridor to the SUN Trail Network to upgrade the existing Opportunity Trail Corridors to Priority Trail Corridors within Collier MPO, Polk and Heartland Regional TPOs. The Collier to Polk Trail has been prioritized for the SUN Trail. FDOT requested that an action item be placed on the MPO agenda to show the Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) that the proposal has local support. The MPO Board approved a resolution and letter of support at its September meeting. The Collier to Polk Regional Trail incorporates two regional spine trail alignments identified in Collier MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the Paradise Coast Trail alignment proposed by the Naples Pathways Coalition connecting the City of Naples to the MPO's north/south SUN Trail alignment along Livingston Rd and continuing east and north to connect to Ave Maria and Immokalee, and the Marco Island Loop Trail.

Mr. Kingston introduced Ms. Chinault, who gave a presentation via Zoom, which can be viewed in the [September 19, 2023 BPAC Agenda](#).

Ms. Fendrick and Ms. Huff: Commented that Everglades City is a designated state Trail Town in one of the largest wildlife corridor areas and should have been mentioned in the resolution.

Mr. Musico: Our MPO Board has already voted to endorse this. The next step is for the MPO to present to the FGTC for approval.

A group discussion followed regarding the possibilities of the trail.

C. Final Report and Appendices on the Marco Island Loop Trail Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design

Mr. Kingston: This is for the Committee to receive a report on the MPO Board action regarding the Marco Island Loop Trail Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design Final report. This Loop would connect the City of Marco Island's bicycle network to the SUN Trail corridor along US 41 by way of Collier Blvd (SR 951) and San Marco Rd (CR 92). The Marco Island Loop Trail is a component of the MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan – Regional and Spine Trail Network and is shown as a Land Opportunity Corridor on the SUN Trail Network map. The MPO Board approved Resolution 2023-10 on September 8, 2023, accepting FDOT's Final Report on the Marco Island Loop Trail Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design and directing staff to take the necessary steps to request SUN Trail funding for a Project Development and Environment Study. The staff recommendation is that the committee receive a report on the Board-approved Study (*which can be viewed in the [September 19, 2023 BPAC Agenda](#)*) and be provided the opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Musico: When this item was presented to the MPO Board at their last meeting, costs of some of the trail features being considered were discussed. It was also noted that the state had increased its funding of the SUN Trail. That is good for us.

A group discussion followed regarding the trail construction and design possibilities which were presented in the feasibility study, when considering cost and environment.

D. Report on Board action on amendment to the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add funding for the City of Marco Island Collier Alternate Bike/Ped Project

Mr. Kingston: This item was also presented to the MPO Board at their September meeting. This is for the Committee to receive a report on Board action for the FY 24-28 TIP to add funding for the City of Marco Island Collier Alternate Bike/Ped Project. This TIP Amendment was for multiple segments and a bike lane/sidewalk project in Marco Island. It was initially programmed at just over \$1 million in SU for construction in FY24. FDOT confirmed that more funds were available for the project when cost estimates increased by approximately \$1.5 million after project application. The MPO Board approved a TIP amendment to add the funding via a resolution for total of approximately \$2.5 million.

Mr. Musico: Collier Blvd has two lanes with very heavy traffic. There are sidewalks. The problem is that you have inroad cyclists riding on Collier Blvd, and there is too much traffic for them to do that. The intent is to put a bike lane on a road one block east, parallel to Collier Blvd. The issue with funding is the cost estimate for the application was done seven years ago. Now that it's at 60% design, costs have gone up exponentially; also, during design, they discovered a water main located directly under the pathway that will have to be moved.

9. Member Comments

Ms. Huff: Ms. Avola-Brown is now a board member of the Florida Bike Association and the next meeting will be October 14, 2023 in Orlando.

Mr. Dondanville: It's exciting times with all the activity going on, including the update of the Bike/Ped Master Plan. It is in very good hands with people who know the local area, to help move alternate transportation forward.

Mr. Bonness: It is great to see the Collier to Polk Trail moving forward, and hopefully we'll see some of the Paradise Trail in there.

10. Distribution Items

None

11. Topics for Future Meetings

The topics chosen for the October 24, 2023 Collier-Lee Joint Workshop are the U.S. 15., Rail Trail, Marco Loop and Hands-Free Florida Distracted Driving Campaign

12. Next Meeting Date

Joint meeting October 24, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. Location: Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Ft. Myers, FL 33901

13. Adjournment

Mr. Matonti adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.