

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the  
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 23, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

**Ms. Middelstaedt** called the meeting to order at approximately 2:05 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**CAC Members Present**

Elaine Middelstaedt, *Chair*

Neal Gelfand, *Vice-Chair*

Josh Rincon

Karen Homiak

Misty Phillips

Michelle Arnold

**CAC Members Absent**

Dennis DiDonna

Fred Sasser

Dennis Stalzer

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

**Others Present**

Carmen Maldonado, FDOT

Kathy Eastley, Collier County Transportation Planner

Monica Ramos, Public

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

*Ms. Homiak moved to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.*

4. **Approval of the August 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

*Ms. Homiak moved to approve the August 26, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.*

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

*Item 5 was heard after item 7.A.*

**Ms. Ramos** said she was in attendance to speak about a petition she had initiated informed by a recent Board of Collier County Commissioners meeting. The Board had discussed the topic of safer roads in regard to the 2025 budget, and that additional funding to put toward safer roads was anticipated in the future.

**Ms. McLaughlin** invited **Ms. Ramos** to participate in the upcoming Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan virtual public workshop and to join the Steering Committee as a concerned citizen.

6. **Agency Updates**

**A. FDOT**

None.

**B. MPO Executive Director**

None.

7. **Committee Action**

**A. Endorse Amendment 1 to the FY 24/25-25/26 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said the Unified Planning Work Program was the current budget for the MPO for a two-year period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. It was approved by the MPO Board on May 10, 2024. The MPO reconciled consultant billing through June 30, 2024, for ongoing plans with the budget set forth in the UPWP. FDOT awarded the MPO an additional approximately \$13,000 for transit planning funds and asked the MPO to amend the UPWP. With the reconciliation, the MPO was able to find funding to for a Collier and Lee MPO joint regional Congestion Management Process (CMP) plan to start in FY25, as well as an increase in MPO Staff salaries/fringe benefits, and transit-related travel for professional development and training. The amendment was anticipated to be presented to the MPO Board

for approval on October 11, 2024, and had been endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that morning.

*Mr. Gelfand moved to endorse an Amendment 1 to the FY 24/25-25/26 Unified Planning Work Program, and Ms. Homiak seconded. Carried unanimously.*

**B. Endorse the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Involvement Plan, and Chapters 1 & 3**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that Jacobs Engineering, Collier MPO's consultant for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), presented an overview of the draft 2050 LRTP at the August CAC meeting, including the Public Involvement Plan (PIP), and Chapter 1 (which is an introduction to the Long Range Transportation Plan) and Chapter 3 (which discusses how projects will be evaluated). Updates to the PIP were informed by new legislation. Since that presentation, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had recently provided additional comments focused on Chapter 3.

She mentioned that at the TAC meeting that morning, the Committee decided that in light of FDOT's comments being provided after the Committee had reviewed the draft, members agreed that more time for the Committee to review Chapter 3, as well as further discussions with FDOT with more specific details about Collier County, were needed and agreed to endorse the PIP and Chapter 1 and defer Chapter 3 for further review.

**Mr. Gelfand** suggested adding The Housing Alliance, a recently formed affordable housing organization in our region, to Collier MPO's Adviser Network list. **Ms. McLaughlin** said she would follow up on it.

CAC also agreed to endorse the PIP and Chapter 1 and defer Chapter 3 for further review.

*Ms. Arnold moved to endorse the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Involvement Plan and Chapter 1 as shown and defer Chapter 3, and Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.*

**C. Endorse an Amendment to the FY 25-29 Transportation Improvement Program (Transit)**

**Mr. Kingston** said that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has requested that Collier MPO amend its FY25-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a transit project, a non-budgeted FTA funds to Purchase vehicles/equipment for a replacement bus over 30 feet.

A group discussion followed, regarding fuel options and electric possibilities.

*Ms. Homiak moved to endorse an Amendment to the FY 25-29 Transportation Improvement Program (Transit) and Ms. Phillips seconded. Carried unanimously.*

#### **D. Endorse MPO's Amended Public Participation Plan**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said the 2020 Public Participation Plan (PPP) included considerations for the Covid pandemic and hurricane preparedness and recovery. The newly amended PPP was informed by the MPO's Federal Certification Review in July 2024, which prompted staff to update the PPP to reflect updated demographics and recently instated federal requirements. FHWA reviewed and provided comments on the preliminary draft. The PPP followed the required public notification process. TAC had endorsed the amended plan that morning.

*Ms. Homiak moved to endorse the MPO's Amended Public Participation Plan and Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.*

#### **E. Endorse the 2025 MPO Meeting Schedule**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said the 2025 schedule follows established meeting locations, dates and times with the exception of two MPO Board meeting dates being listed for December 2025, to allow for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to be adopted by the December 11, 2025 deadline, as the regularly scheduled MPO Board meeting falls on December 12, 2025. She said earlier that morning, after some discussion, TAC had come to the conclusion that pushing the LRTP adoption up to a November MPO Board meeting would cause a domino effect of the deadline being pushed further up in the year in the future and agreed that scheduling one MPO Board meeting date in December 2025 prior to December 12 would be the best course of action.

*Ms. Arnold moved to endorse the 2025 MPO Meeting Schedule and Ms. Phillips seconded. Carried unanimously.*

### **8 Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)**

#### **A. Update on the Development of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said the schedule, process, and current status of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), funded by Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant would be covered in the presentation. The MPO and its consultant, TYLin, convened a Steering Committee comprised of members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian, Citizens and Technical Advisory Committees, the Community Traffic Safety Team, Local Law Enforcement Officials and the County's Emergency Management Services, as required by the SS4A grant. The MPO would follow its usual committee process, with the addition of the Steering Committee. The MPO and TYLin hosted a virtual Steering Committee kick-off meeting on August 28, 2024. A follow-up virtual meeting was scheduled for October 10, 2024. Public outreach was in place to encourage citizens to participate in the development of the plan.

**Mr. Kingston** provided a presentation (which can be viewed in the September 23, 2024 CAC agenda packet).

**Ms. Arnold** asked how the CSAP would affect previously programmed projects that had not yet been fully funded.

**Ms. McLaughlin** responded that the CSAP targets new federal discretionary grant funding and is directly focused on safety projects informed by statistical analysis, identifying problem areas and finding solutions in the form of proven safety countermeasures to address those issues, rather than on adding funds to an existing project.

A group discussion followed, and various possibilities for safety measures that could be put in place were discussed.

**B. Update on 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Model Runs, Existing & Committed (E+C) Network Deficiencies**

**Ms. McLaughlin** explained that FDOT’s consultant team, Traf-O-Data, recently released the first model run - the E+C roadway network and 2050 socioeconomic (SE) data, utilizing information provided by all District 1 MPO’s and TPOs, and had developed a dashboard web application identifying potential roadway capacity deficiencies based on the assigned 2050 Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) model volumes and the assumed FDOT Level of Service D (LOS D) services volume. More information will be available at the October meeting.

**Ms. McLaughlin** reviewed the draft timeline and proposed model runs (which can be viewed in the September 23, 2024 CAC agenda packet).

**9      Member Comments**

None.

**10     Distribution Items**

None.

**11.    Next Meeting Date**

*October 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. Main Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.*

**12.    Adjournment**

**Ms. Middelstaedt** adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.