

CHARLOTTE COUNTY – PUNTA GORDA

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

MINUTES OF THE MPO BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

CHARLOTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER

18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, ROOM #119

PORT CHARLOTTE FL 33948

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Commissioner Christopher G. Constance,** MD, Charlotte County Commissioner, MPO Chair

**Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch,** Charlotte County Commissioner, MPO Vice Chair

**Commissioner Ken Doherty,** Charlotte County Commissioner (Alternate)

**Commissioner James Herston**, Charlotte County Airport Authority, Airport Vice Chair

**Mayor Lynne Matthews**, Punta Gorda City Council

**ADVISORY**

**Wayne Gaither,** FDOT District One Interim Secretary (Alternate)

**STAFF PRESENT**

D’Juan Harris, MPO Director

Bekie Leslie, Administrative Services Coordinator

Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Principal Planner

Betty-Ann Sherer, MPO Planner

Wendy Scott, MPO Planner

Janette Knowlton, County Attorney (MPO Legal Services)

**OTHERS PRESENT IN-PERSON**

Bill Dryburgh, Punta Gorda City Council

Pam Barr, FDOT

Katie Shannon, VHB

William Roll, Kimley Horn & Associates

Paul Benvie, DRMP Engineering

Dianne Quilty, CAC Chair

Steven Hurt, CAC Vice Chair

Rick Kirchhoff, CAC

Mary Ellen Kiss, CAC/BSCC

Richard Russell, CAC

Pauline Klein, BPAC Chair/CAC

Brittany Metzler, City of Punta Gorda Urban Design

John Elias, Charlotte County Public Works

Robert Fakhri, Charlotte County Public Works

Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Community Development

Deborah Olux, Citizen

**OTHERS PRESENT REMOTELY**

Charles Counsil, Peggy Walters Award recipient and former CAC Chair

##### **1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

MPO Chair Constance called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The roll call was taken, and all board members were present except for Commissioner Joseph Tiseo, who had requested that MPO Alternate, Commissioner Ken Doherty attend in his place.

**2. Invocation – Pastor Bill Frank – First Baptist Church of Punta Gorda**

Pastor Bill Frank was not in attendance. Commissioner Deutsch delivered the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**4. Addition and/or Deletion to the Agenda**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. However, D’Juan Harris noted a technical correction to a participant’s name in the May 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes, adding Robert Fakhari’s last name.

***Mayor Matthews*** *made a motion to approve the agenda as corrected.* ***Commissioner***

***Deutsch*** *seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.*

**5. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

No one from the public appeared to speak.

**6.** [**Presentation of the “Peggy Walters” Citizen Mobility Award**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/6%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20Peggy%20Award-Charles%20Counsil%20DH.doc)

Mr. Charles Counsil stepped down from his position as CAC Chair at the March 20, 2023 MPO Board Meeting due to his planned out-of-state move. The MPO received a nomination for him to be the recipient of the 2023 “Peggy Walters” Citizen Mobility Award. This is the 14th year of award presentation. The award recognizes achievement by an individual or group who, through their efforts and accomplishments, has made significant and noteworthy contributions to transportation planning in Charlotte County.

Charles Counsil served on the MPO’s Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) since March 2019 and was very faithful in his meeting attendance. He was the CAC Chair since mid-2021, frequently delivering his thorough CAC Chair’s Report at the MPO Board Meetings during his tenure. D’Juan Harris praised Mr. Counsil’s dedication to and involvement with the MPO. The award was presented to him virtually by MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance.

Charles Counsil stated that when he and his wife came to Charlotte County 20 years ago, they had figured out how to give back to the community through volunteerism, which was very important to the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County. He found that volunteers are sincere about their comments in meetings, and it had been his pleasure on the CAC to work with other CAC Members and staff. He praised the leadership of D’Juan Harris. Mr. Counsil stated that it had been the high point of his volunteer activity to be the CAC Chair, and he was very proud to receive the Peggy Walters Award.

Commissioner Constance showed the award to the camera so that Mr. Counsil could view it remotely and noted that it would be shipped to him. Commissioner Constance thanked him for his service, not just with the MPO, but with the CRA and other efforts. Commissioner Deutsch also thanked Mr. Counsil for all that he’d done throughout the County and the community. He encouraged him to stay well, be safe and accept his congratulations. Mayor Matthews stated that Mr. Counsil was missed already as a friend and colleague. She commented that he was especially missed at the CRA. She thanked him for his efforts and described how easy it was for him to be involved in everything. Commissioner Constance agreed that Charles Counsil had not been replaced because he’s irreplaceable.

**7. Chairs’ Reports:**

1. **MPO Board Chair’s Report**

Chair Constance thanked Wayne Gaither for sitting in as the FDOT District One alternate. He noted that he was very impressed with the execution of improvements on US 41 in Punta Gorda, as the work is now being completed on deceleration and acceleration lanes and turn lanes. He characterized the work as impressive. *(Please see additional domain discussion at the end of section D. BPAC Report.)*

1. [**Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair’s Report**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/7B%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20CAC%20CHAIR%20REPORT-BL.docx)

CAC Chair Dianne Quilty reviewed June 28, 2023 CAC Meeting highlights:

She stated that although she cannot fill Charlie Counsil’s shoes, as the new CAC chair, she hoped to do the position justice. She stated that Sheriff Department representative to the CAC, Corporal Scott Sarver had described recent traffic congestion activity due to out-of-area construction workers and a growing number of residents.

Under CAC public comments, a citizen named Jeff Lustig had inquired about the possibility of using golf carts. He was advised of current rules and laws (including the fact that they are not legal in the County except in several permitted communities).

Under CAC member comments, Dr. Mary Ellen Kiss had requested the status of the Burnt Store Road transportation study, and she had been assured that it was going to be done. Pauline Klein had inquired about the progress of transportation challenges in the US 41 Charlotte Harbor Sunseeker Resort area. Richard Kirchhoff had discussed Gasparilla Road future widening plans, and it was noted that the project needed to be elevated to the LRTP’s Cost Feasible Plan. Dianne Quilty has inquired about repairs to both the electric and non-electric street signs on US 41 that had received storm damage during the passage of Hurricane Ian.

Commissioner Constance thanked Ms. Quilty for her solid CAC highlights. He noted that John Elias has stated that approximately 5,000 street signs are in need of repair 10 months post storm, but the lion’s share are restored. He was glad she brought up the Burnt Store Road traffic study since he too wanted to understand its progress. He was aware that staff was working on the Vincent Avenue issue, which might be handled with a roundabout to assist residents by slowing speed and improving safety in the area that was growing faster than expected. He was also glad that the Sunseeker Resort area study in Charlotte Harbor on US 41 was discussed. Chair Constance was not understanding how the Sun Seeker entrance traffic light is being addressed. He was concerned about traffic on Melbourne Street (a left turn for US 41 southbound traffic). He saw the potential for t-bone accidents at that location. He noted that in three months, the doors of Sunseeker will open in a traffic nuisance area. He noted that he would bring up this issue under the FDOT report portion of the agenda.

1. [**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair’s Report**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/7C%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20TAC%20CHAIR%20REPORT-BL.docx)

Neither the TAC Chair nor the TAC Vice Chair was in attendance, so TAC Member Shaun Cullinan gave a brief update of TAC activities as found in the agenda packet.

1. [**Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair’s Report**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/7D%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20BPAC%20CHAIR%20REPORT-BL.docx)

BPAC Chair Pauline Klein reviewed the June 15, 2023 BPAC Meeting highlights:

Having travelled the roadway frequently, she appreciated the MPO Board’s concern regarding the Melbourne Street traffic issue. She noted that a quorum had not been present, but BPAC Members had come to a consensus of those present on several items. She noted that FDOT District One representative Tanya Merkle had given an update on Sun Trail funding. There had also been an interesting presentation on e-bikes.

At this point in the meeting, Commissioner Constance stated that he wished to add an item to his MPO Chair’s report: the potential transition of the MPO website’s domain from a .com to a .gov site. He obtained MPO Board consensus on having staff work with County Information Technology Senior Division Manager Ray Desjardins on the matter.

**8. Local Government Reports:**

1. [**Charlotte County Airport Authority**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/8A%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20Airport%20Authority%20REPORT-BL.docx)

Commissioner Herston, Charlotte County Airport Authority Vice Chairman, provided MPO Board Members with copies of the July 17, 2023 Airport Authority Report. He focused on the Capital Improvement Summary. He stated that with a passenger count of over a million through

June, the Punta Gorda Airport was on track to break the two million passenger count by year’s end. He stated that a wealth of information could be found on the website: [www.flypgd.com](http://www.flypgd.com)

Commissioner Constance inquired about a potential number of Allegiants flights to the Punta Gorda Airport when the Sunseeker Resort opens in October 2023. Commissioner Herston stated that the Airport is creating capacity, which would then get chewed up. He noted that other carriers were making inquiries. Further discussion on capacity followed. Commissioner Herston indicated that many projects are 90% Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funded as derived through a per plane ticket price that is placed in a dedicated fund.

1. [**City of Punta Gorda**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/8B%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20City%20of%20Punta%20REPORT-BL.docx)

Mayor Matthews had provided the City of Punta Gorda report for the MPO Board agenda packet. Projects listed in the report were:

* City Council and all boards and committees are currently meeting in the Gulf Theater at the Military Museum for the foreseeable future while City Hall renovations are in progress.
* Gilchrist Park/Harborwalk Phase II construction is complete and continues to move through the as-built process.
* The City is in restoration mode since the hurricane. Many City offices are still relocated due to damage. The City Manager’s staff are in the Laishley Park Community Room. The Urban Design, Code, Zoning and Planning staff are currently in the old City Council Chamber and outside the building in two remote trailers until new office space becomes available. Waiting for FEMA approval to begin restorations.
* Canal debris cleanup with the State of Florida contractor is complete. Wayfinding signs that were damaged from the storm are in the process of being replaced. Many sidewalks still need to be replaced due to uprooted trees that damaged them.
* The three seawall contractors are now in place and working in the PGI and BSI canal districts for the 7.25 miles of seawall that needs to be replaced. The city is working closely with FEMA to complete inspections and ensure appropriate reimbursements will be forthcoming.
* A citizen’s committee comprised of five stakeholder group representatives is now convened to discuss possible plans for replacement of the Bayfront Center building in Gilchrist Park, which was destroyed in the hurricane. They have until the August 23, 2023 City Council meeting to compile a report providing the City with options for replacement of the facility.
* The City Hall renovation project is still in design and engineering. The Council will review 90% plans at the meeting in August. Construction is expected to begin early fall

2023. The Urban Design Department will be relocating soon to facilitate the construction project.

* The Laishley Park Playground installation is on hold until a new contractor can be secured.
* The Boca Grande drainage project area which is bound by Taylor Road to the north, Cooper St. to the east, Palmera Drive to the south and the Seminole Gulf Railway ditch to the west is in the queue to begin construction soon. The area encompasses about 105 acres of which approximately 25 acres are commercial with the remaining 80 acres

consisting of low density residential. This is a master drainage plan for water quality and drainage improvements to include installation of stormwater piping and inlets installation, swale improvements and construction of a stormwater management area. Construction is planned to begin in 2023.

* A sidewalk is being constructed along West William Street from the Cross Trails Plaza to the apartments to the west of the plaza. This will be ADA compliant.
* The Ponce Park boardwalk is in the process of being replaced and improvements to the concrete fishing piers will begin soon.
* The City has completed swale regrading at eight locations and continues work in additional locations as part of the annual swale program to improve drainage to areas that are not meeting the City’s 72-hour level of service policy.

Mayor Matthews stated that as with Charlotte County, the City was having some storm-damaged sign replacement issues including the ability to obtain materials. She thanked FDOT for the US 41 northbound left turn lane extension at Aqui Esta Drive; however, she reported from first-hand experience that it was not long enough. She requested lengthening the turn lane while the equipment was still in place. Commissioner Constance agreed that there was the need for safe harbor off US 41 even if having to wait an extra traffic signal cycle. Mayor Matthews stated that the potential extension area was fairly level and needed additional 6-8 car storage.

Mayor Matthews reiterated the extreme need for the traffic light at the Punta Gorda Home Depot on Burnt Store Road. She described a serious accident involving a motorcyclist who had to be transported via air-flight.

A discussion followed between Commissioner Herston and Mayor Matthews regarding seawall replacements, the ramping up of the production of seawall panels, and FEMA assistance with obtaining rip rap materials.

1. [**Charlotte County**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/8C%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20County%20REPORT-BL.docx)

Commissioner Doherty provided the County report on the following items:

**Various Intersection Improvements:**

· Veterans Blvd at Yorkshire intersection 90% plans are due for review.

· Veterans Blvd at Cochran Blvd intersection 90% plans are due for review.

· Cochran Boulevard @ Quesada Avenue – Northbound right turn on Quesada Avenue (completed)

· Murdock Circle @ US Highway 41 – Eastbound right turn lane on Murdock Circle (completed)

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: December 13th, 2023

**Flamingo Boulevard/Edgewater Drive Widening:**

· 95% of field survey work has been completed.

· Protected species and wetlands evaluation in process.

· 90% of geotechnical field work has been completed.

· Design considerations have been presented to the BOCC, and with their direction, the 30% plans have been reviewed.

· 60% roadway plans are being designed.

· 30% bridge plans have been reviewed and 60% plans are in process.

· 30% utility plans are under review.

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: September 1st, 2024

**Charlotte Harbor CRA – Parmely Street Road Widening and Sidewalk:**

Project Description:

This project includes the design and construction of Parmely Street from U.S. 41 to Bayshore Road.

60% design plans are under review by County staff and comments will be sent back to consultant.

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: January 8th, 2024

**Charlotte Harbor CRA – Melbourne St multi-use pathway**

Project Description:

This project includes the design and construction of a multi-use pathway from U.S. 41 to Harborview Road.

30% design plans are due for review.

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: February 29, 2024

**Kings Highway Widening:**

Project Description:

This project is to widen Kings Highway from Sandhill Boulevard to the DeSoto County line. This design and construction is to replace the existing roadway with a new 4 lane divided roadway with protected turn lanes. The design also includes utility infrastructure, street lighting and pedestrian sidewalks.

30% design plans are under review by County staff and comments will be sent back to consultant.

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: May 13th, 2024

Commissioner Constance spoke regarding the King’s Hwy widening initiative. He asked Wayne Gaither about the ability of FDOT to assist DeSoto County with turn lane access in the golf course area. He noted that DeSoto County is a constrained area and needs assistance. Wayne Gaither stated that FDOT is working with them with design funding (by July 16, 2023). Then, FDOT will look for a funding mechanism for the construction phase to address their immediate needs. Commissioner Constance observed that perhaps the area stormwater could be moved to Charlotte’s ponds, so as to be a good neighbor and have the water flow naturally south. Wayne Gaither stated that he would speak to DeSoto County about the concept. Commissioner Constance noted that this approach was wise, since there should have been work done with Lee County on the similar Burnt Store Road narrowing issue at the Charlotte/Lee County Line. Commissioner Doherty asked John Elias about the four-lane configuration, commenting that the transition would have to be addressed very near Sandhill Boulevard.

John Elias addressed the Burnt Store Road issue first, stating that a utility company had wanted $5 million for the ROW at that time. Regarding Kings Hwy, he noted that the roadway is falling apart. Johnson Engineering was involved in trying to coordinate with FDOT and DeSoto County.

**9. Consent Agenda:**

1. [**Approval of Minutes: May 15, 2023, MPO Board Meeting**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/9A%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20Approval%20of%20minutes%20CC-PG%20MPO-BL.doc)

***Mayor Matthews*** *made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with corrected Minutes.* ***Commissioner Doherty s****econded the motion, and it carried unanimously.*

**10.** [**Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/10%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20FDOT%20REPORT%20BL%20DH.doc)

Pam Barr thanked Charlotte County for submitting the priority list. She noted that the projects were being planned into the work program.

Pam Barr provided updates on various projects:

**FDOT Led Discussion**

**A.** [**US 41 at Olean Boulevard**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FDOT%20Report%20Agenda%20Item%20and%20pdf%20attachments/A%20US41%20at%20Olean%20Blvd.pdf) **(Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

Pam Barr noted that FDOT Staff Members (Stephen Davis and Mark Mathes) currently were scheduled off and would address this item at a future meeting. Commissioner Constance was hopeful that the “right on red” issue would be addressed eventually.

**B.** [**Harbor View Road and U.S. 41 – Lane modification Updates**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/FDOT%20Agenda%20Items/US%2041%20and%20Harbor%20View%20Road.docx) **(Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT)** [**Map link**](https://www.google.com/maps/%4026.9643733%2C-82.0748224%2C3a%2C31.3y%2C92.94h%2C92.21t/data%3D%213m6%211e1%213m4%211s4pzHB8MVw2keZFqYlTn20A%212e0%217i16384%218i8192)

Pam Barr noted that FDOT was coordinating with staff, and although the issue would take time, it was moving forward.

**C.** [**SR 776 at Flamingo Boulevard**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FDOT%20Report%20Agenda%20Item%20and%20pdf%20attachments/B%20SR776%20at%20Flamingo%20Blvd.pdf) **- (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither -FDOT/ Robert Fakhri -Charlotte County)**

The Design Phase is ongoing between FDOT and Charlotte County.

**D.** [**SR 776 at the Charlotte Sports Park**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FDOT%20Report%20Agenda%20Item%20and%20pdf%20attachments/C%20SR776%20at%20Charlotte%20Sports%20Park.pdf) **– Intersection Improvements (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither -FDOT/ Robert Fakhri -Charlotte County)**

FDOT and County staff were still in discussion on this project. Commissioner Constance discussed desired enhancements to west bound SR 776 left turn lanes into the Sports Park. John Elias confirmed that based on previous conversations, the double left turn lanes would only be used when emergency personnel were present and allowing it during events. Otherwise, the extra lane would be striped and not utilized.

**E. [I-75 Possible New Interchange North of Kings Hwy Interchange](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FDOT%20Report%20Agenda%20Item%20and%20pdf%20attachments/D%20i75%20Possible%20New%20Interchange%20North%20of%20Kings%20Hwy%20Interchange.pdf)** **- (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT)**

The south segment master plan study is complete and staff discussions continue. Commissioner Constance stated that letters of support had been obtained from both Sarasota County and the City of North Port. D’Juan Harris noted that although the southern segment master plan study had been done, study of the other two segments was underway and should be finished by the time of the joint meeting with the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board early next year.

**Joint Local and FDOT Discussion**

**A.** [**Harbor View Road Combined Funding Strategies**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FDOT%20Report%20Agenda%20Item%20and%20pdf%20attachments/JL%20A%20Harbor%20View%20Road%20Combined%20Funding.pdf) **- (Wayne Gaither-FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

John Elias reported that staff had met recently regarding this effort. They were trying to move forward with Right-of-Way (ROW) funding discussions. Environmentally sensitive lands may require a site shift. Wayne Gaither stated that Charlotte County must sponsor the RAISE grant application for the next cycle.

**B.** [**US 41 (SR 45) from Kings Hwy to Peace River Bridge**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FDOT%20Report%20Agenda%20Item%20and%20pdf%20attachments/JL%20B%20US%2041%20SB%20at%20Melbourne%20Street.pdf) **- Comprehensive Planning/Operational Improvements Study to include but not limited to access management, multi-modal, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity improvements (Wayne Gaither-FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

John Elias noted that in talks with the MPO Staff, County Public Works had agreed to take over the project. Mr. Elias was not sure how Sunseeker Resort will get the traffic signal completed. He noted that the Comprehensive Study will have to take the signal on as an existing condition. Wayne Gaither stated that the Sunseeker signal is a permit job, since it is designed and built by Sunseeker. They had submitted their plans to FDOT, and they had been approved. County staff had copies of these plans. Commissioner Constance requested that the roadway and signal plans be submitted to all MPO Board Members. D’Juan Harris would forward them post-meeting.

**C.** [**Bermont Road (CR 74) Safety Discussion**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Bermont-Rd-map-1.png) **– (FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

John Elias stated that the elected officials’ concerns had been heard. Commissioner Constance noted that the execution of speed zones and no passing restrictions had been well received. He observed that the bigger issue was expanding Bermont Road to four lanes.

**D.** [**Burnt Store Road Improvements**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/BSR.PNG) **Approximately 1000 feet North of County Line - (FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

John Elias observed that this project had changed a great deal. He had spoken with all interested parties. The PD&E is almost complete. Since funding from Lee County can’t be used in Charlotte County, FDOT will now cover that portion of the PD&E. The Design portion has been given to Lee County, and because of the mitigating circumstances, it could be handled as a Design/Build project, but it could be changed if something different needs to be done at Vincent Avenue. It is now a right in – right out situation, but something different could be done. The ROW contribution has been reduced drastically. Burnt Store Coalition members are asked to be patient, since there will be a workshop discussion in September 2023. Much ambiguity surrounds Vincent Avenue (partially in Charlotte County/partially in Lee County, but they don’t

want to take responsibility for it). Much communication is under way. Burnt Store Marina was involved in repaving in the past. With previous paving, they had funded their half. Commissioner Constance assumed that the Marina and Lee County will have to address their portion.

**11.** [**FY 2023/2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/MPO Agreement Amendments**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/11%20Agenda%20item%20MPO-UPWP%20Amendment-BL%20DH.doc)

D’Juan Harris discussed these necessary amendments for the second year of two-year document.

The FY 2024 UPWP budget is being amended to include the Safe Street for All grant funding allocation and to update the various grant funding allocations. The revisions/amendments include the following:

* Moving $20,000 from Task 2 - Data Collection & Analysis Planning salary line into its consultant line.
* Adding in Task 4 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) including $31,469 SL dollars under the consultant line. This funding will be utilized for the development of the 2050 LRTP Update.
* Adding in Task 6 - Special Project Planning the new language for Safe Street for All and adding funding under Task 6 - Special Project consultant account the federal grant funding amount of $249,500 and local share is $62,500.
* Add additional allocation for FTA 5305(d) in the amount of $1,192 to Task 8 – Transit and Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning.
* Adding additional funding allocation in Task 8 – Transit and Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning for TD Planning in the amount of $1,237.
* Updating FY 2024 all FY 2024 Statements and Assurances form.
* Amending the MPO Agreement to reflect all new funding allocations.

**Budgeted Action**:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funding Source** | **Source Level** | **Previous****FY 2024 UPWP Allocation** | **New FY 2024 UPWP Allocation** | **UPWP FY 2024 Increase** |
| 5305(d) | PL | $86,491 | $87,683 |  $1,192 |
| TD | State | $23,887 | $25,124 |  $1,237 |
| SL | PL | New | $31,469 | $31,469 |
| SS4A | Federal | New | $249,500 | $249,500 |
| Local | New | $62,500 | $62,500 |

***Mayor Matthews*** *made a motion to amend the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to include the following updates: (1) Safe Streets and Roads for All grant award to Task 6 – Special Project Planning in the amount of $312,000 (includes federal and local share), (2) Add verbiage to Task 6 to include Development of SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Activities, (3) SL funds in the amount of $31,469 to Task 4 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), (4) FTA 5305(d) funds in the amount of $1,192 to Task 8 Transit, and (5)*

*Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funds in the amount of $1,237 to Task 8 – TD Planning. This motion allows for transmittal of the amendments to the MPO Agreement, FY 2024 updated Statements and Assurances forms and FDOT Cost Analysis Certification form. These revisions allow staff to make minor non-financial changes and adjustments based upon input received from FDOT.* ***Commissioner Deutsch*** *seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.*

**12.** [**MPO Board Resolution Authorizing Execution of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Federal Grant Agreement**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/12%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20MPO%20Board%20SS4A%20Grant%20Execute%20DH.doc)

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO applied for and was awarded Safe Streets and Roads for all federal grant funding to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan will provide an in-depth analysis of roadway crash data in Charlotte County and strategically identify project priority recommendations to countermeasure the incidence of crashes in Charlotte County based on the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Safe System Approach. Development of the plan is anticipated to take up to one year (a timeline was provided). Once the plan is adopted, local jurisdictions within Charlotte County will be eligible to apply for SS4A Project Implementation funding for transportation safety improvements of up to $50,000,000 per project. The goal is to identify and implement short-term, mid-term and ultimate transportation solutions that will reduce or eliminate serious injuries and fatal crashes on public roadways.

The federal grant award amount is $249,500. The required local match will be provided by Charlotte County in the amount $62,500, yielding a total project budget of $312,000. A resolution authorizing the execution of the SS4A Grant Agreement with the US DOT has been reviewed by the MPO Board Legal Counsel and was provided in the agenda packet.

D’Juan Harris described the grant approach as a streamlined funding strategy which does not pass through FDOT. He reviewed the anticipated timeline. Commissioner Constance noted that a related item had required action in the prior item (Agenda Item #11).

***Commissioner Doherty*** *made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-02 for signature by the MPO Chair and authorize the MPO Director to execute the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO’s Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Transportation (including making minor adjustments as required).* ***Commissioner Deutsch*** *seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.*

**13.** [**Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Consultant Selection**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/13%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20SS4A%20Consultant%20Selection%20DH.doc)

D’Juan Harris described the consultant selection process. He expressed his thanks to Melissa Reichert and Shaun Cullinan for participating on the SS4A consultant selection committee. He introduced Katie Shannon from VHB who will be assigned as the Consultant Project Manager to develop Charlotte County’s Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

On June 14, 2023, the MPO’s SS4A consultant selection committee held in-person presentations amongst three responding GPC consultants vying for the opportunity to develop the Charlotte

County-Punta Gorda Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The SS4A selection committee ranked the consultants based on the criteria below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SS4A Selection Committee Scoring Criteria** | **Possible Score** |
| Understanding of Safe Systems Approach and Pragmatic Examples of Application of Principles | 20 |
| Experience Developing Vision Zero / Comprehensive Safety Action Plans | 20 |
| Implementation Strategies to Address Issues along High Injury Network (Can be proposed or based on previous case studies) | 20 |
| Public Engagement / Public Involvement Strategy / Stakeholder Considerations | 15 |
| Innovative Utilization of Technology | 15 |
| Response to Questions | 10 |

Upon tallying the scoring criteria, the SS4A selection committee unanimously recommended VHB as the consultant to develop the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (please see Attachment 1 for final scoring sheets).

Once approved by the MPO Board, staff will negotiate a Scope of Services to initiate development of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

***Mayor Matthews*** *made a motion to approve the selection committee’s recommendation of*

*VHB and Associates as the consultant to develop the SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan,*

*authorize MPO Staff to develop a Work Assignment Order and Scope of Services with the selected*

*consultant, and authorize the MPO Chair to sign the Work Assignment Order.* ***Commissioner***

***Doherty*** *seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.*

**14.** [**2050 Socioeconomic Data Development Update**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/14%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20Socioeconomic%20Update%20for%20Review%20by%20Laks.doc)

In May of 2023 the MPO Board entered into a contract with Kimley Horn & Associates to perform the updates for the LRTP 2020 Data Needs for Model Validation effort. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2023.

William Roll from Kimley Horn & Associates provided updates on the following topics:

1) Forecasting Process

2) Population and Employment Control Totals

3) Outstanding Data Needs

4) Next Steps

William Roll noted that the average of the University of Florida’s Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) medium/high figures (with a 90,000-population increase) is an appropriate population forecast approach, especially in growing areas.

Commissioner Herston asked about Senate Bill 102’s impact. William Roll noted that as in his residential area of Lakeland, locations will show up as existing commercial. Lower performing commercial properties will flip to residential.

Commissioner Doherty asked about how this scope integrates with the County’s program for metro forecasting. It involves the inclusion of building permit data. The data will be merged, and a peer review will be conducted. Commissioner Doherty wanted to make certain of future integration given the different timelines.

**15. Public Comments**

CAC Member Richard Russell stated that he was sorry to hear about the Melbourne Street issue being a disconnect with the Sunseeker Resort entry signal. Previously, he had developed some concept plans to address the issue in the entire area, but he had not had any success with FDOT. He was concerned about the lack of foresight and safety in the area.

**16.** [**Staff Comments**](https://ccmpo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/07%2017%202023%20MPO%20Board%20Meeting/16%20AGENDA%20ITEM%20STAFF%20Comments.doc)

D’Juan Harris had provided MPO Board Members an MPO Director’s Staff Report in their meeting packets.

He thanked Mayor Matthews and MPO Chair Constance for delivering welcome remarks at the June 15, 2023 Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Business Meeting in Punta Gorda. He also thanked Commissioner/LCB Chair Doherty for his support in hosting the group. He praised County Administrator Flores for authorizing use of the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center for the statewide meeting.

D'Juan Harris noted that Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) advisory committee votes would be occurring soon regarding the distribution formula for MPO funding. There was a proposition to change the non-TMA (under 200,000 MPO population) amounts to be allocated. Commissioner Constance noted that Charlotte County had missed the mark in the 2020 Census by a mere 2 individuals in the count. D’Juan Harris described the process of how both the MPOAC staff directors and governing board groups would vote on the formulas to distribute the percentage of funds between small and large MPOs. He had campaigned for higher percentages to be allocated to small MPOs, but the results remained to be determined.

**17. Member Comments**

Commissioner Deutsch commented on the need for River Road improvements at least down to Winchester Blvd. Although Sarasota County stated they would accomplish these, he noted that basically they haven’t done any of them. He described how in the past week, backups on SR 776 occurred that could have impacted River Road. He requested that Sarasota County be contacted regarding their earlier promise, and an offer of assistance from Charlotte County be made.

Commissioner Doherty, speaking as the LCB Chair, thanked D’Juan Harris for bringing up the topic of the CTD Business Meeting, as he was intending to do.

**18. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the MPO Board will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at

the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119, Port Charlotte, Florida, 33948.