



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
OCTOBER 5, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held in a hybrid format on October 5, 2023, utilizing Microsoft Teams® for virtual participation and in person at the Charlotte County Transit Facility 545 Theresa Boulevard Port Charlotte, Florida

MEMBERS ATTENDING EITHER IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Pauline Klein, (Chair) Bicycle Club
James Wernicke, (Vice Chair) West County Representative (Virtual)
Robert Logan, Mid-County Representative
Ben Turner, West County Representative (Virtual)
Laura Rossi, South County Representative

ABSENT

Wendy Zurstadt, South County Representative (excused)
Betty Staugler, Historical/Cultural/Environmental Representative (excused)

ADVISORY AND OTHERS ATTENDING EITHER IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

D’Juan Harris, MPO Director (Virtual)
Bekie Leslie, MPO (Virtual)
Laks Gurram, MPO
Betty-Ann Sherer, MPO
Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda, TAC Chair
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public Works (Virtual)
April Santos, Charlotte County Public Works
Katie Lukasek, Charlotte County Public Works
Joshua Hudson, Charlotte County Economic Development (Virtual)
Tanya Merkle, FDOT Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, District One
Rich Lisenbee, Charlotte County Signal System Specialist
Jody Mansell, Charlotte County Lighting District Superintendent
Phil Pfaeffli, Citizen

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

Chair Pauline Klein called the hybrid meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

All recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments received.

4. **Chair's Report**

Chair Klein welcomed new member Laura Rossi as the County Representative

5. **Consent Agenda:**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **Approval of Minutes: November 17, 2022**
2. **Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2023**
3. **Approval of Minutes: June 15, 2023**

A Motion was made by Robert Logan to approve the minutes of November 17, 2022, March 2, 2023, and June 15, 2023. Laura Rossi seconded the Motion; and the Motion was approved unanimously.

B. **Draft MPO Board and Advisory Committees Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2024**

It was noted that 2024 meetings will be held in person only with no virtual option. Chair Klein noted she will be unavailable for the November 2023 and April 2024 meeting.

A Motion was made by Robert Logan to approve the 2024 Draft Meeting Schedule. Laura Rossi seconded the Motion; and the Motion was approved unanimously.

6. **FDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Report**

Tanya Merkle, FDOT informed the committee that the SUN Trail call for projects has opened from September 27, 2023 through December 20, 2023- 2:00pm. Applications submitted in GAP will be reviewed as they are received. Charlotte County will be submitting applications.

Ms. Merkle also gave a brief presentation on Roundabouts and Bicycles highlighting multi-modal safety features and the benefits of how roundabouts move us closer to Target Zero. Members discussed education and community outreach are key to helping all modes understand how to navigate these safety counter measures.

Bob Logan suggested FDOT create PSA's on Roundabouts.

7. Sheriffs' Office Report-Public Safety

Sheriff Miller submitted a report of Bicycle and Pedestrian Accidents reported in Charlotte County from January 1 through July 29, 2023. He was unable to attend this meeting.

8. Charlotte County Report

Ravi Kamarajugadda – currently there is no county report, is available to answer any questions.

Bob Logan asked about traffic studies for the intersection of Quesada and Forrest Nelson Blvd and Quesada Ave and Cochran Blvd.

Ravi noted they are currently no complaints but there are concerns about the traffic from BJ's. Charlotte County is analyzing the area.

Rich Lisenbee noted the concerns and indicated that he would review these locations.

Ravi encouraged the Committee members to inform the staff about the traffic conditions in the county so it will be possible to address them in the future.

9. City of Punta Gorda Report

Mitchell Austin agreed with Ravi's statement about citizens input and their importance in formulating the project prioritization process.

He updated the committee members on some of the City of Punta Gorda's projects US 41. A resurfacing project utilizing State and Local funding will enhance a multi-use path from Retta Esplanade to the Harborwalk connecting Punta Gorda Pathways and Downtown area. Another project moving forward, is the design of US 41 Southbound; creating an ADA access to the Harborwalk pathways below the US 41 Bridge.

10. Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Action Plan Scope Review

Laks Gurram described the upcoming plan efforts. The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization was awarded \$249,500 in federal grant funding to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action (SS4A) Plan. A local match amount of \$62,500 will be provided by Charlotte County for a total budget amount of \$312,000 to develop the action plan.

The action plan will be based on the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Safe Systems approach. The action plan will identify the High Injury Network based upon existing crash data and provide recommendations to implement countermeasures to reduce the prevalence of serious injuries and fatalities along these high crash corridors within Charlotte County.

Bob Logan requested County Staff if a solar flashing stop sign can be installed at the intersection of Quesada Ave and Harbor Blvd These improved signs are very effective in the county.

Rich Lisenbee will look at this location and talk to the Signs and Markings department.

A Motion was made by Robert Logan to recommend the MPO Board approve the scope of services for the development of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Laura Rossi seconded the Motion; and the Motion was approved unanimously.

11. Bicycle Signs, Signals and Markings Presentation

Betty-Ann presented a “Mentimeter” game and encouraged all BPAC members for their participation in the interactive bike quiz challenge on Bicycle Signs, Signals and Markings. The presentation was well received, and the winner of the quiz was Laura Rossi.

12. Project Priorities Map - Discussion

Betty-Ann Sherer presented the committee members an interactive mapping tool to provide a visual depiction of MPO project priorities. April Santos stated that the map was easy to use and utilized it for a project she was working on and found it easy to use and helpful to access all of the project information clear, concise and in one place. It was noted that that this map will be updated annually after FDOT updates the Draft Tentative Work Program.

13. Citizen Input

Philipp Pfaeffli concurred that education and understanding the law is an important obligation for safety regardless of the mode of transportation for all citizens utilizing public roadways.

14. Staff Comments

Laks Gurram apologized Director Harris was unable to attend today. The MPO has been very busy moving forward with Safe Streets and Roads for all and preparing for the 2050 LRTP.

Betty-Ann Sherer welcomed Laura Rossi as the new Mid-County Representative. Mrs. Sherer noted the resignation of Michael Tomaso as the Bicycle Business Representative and welcomed Philipp Pfaeffli as the new Bicycle Business Representative Applicant. Mr. Pfaeffli’s appointment is anticipated to be approved at the October 16, 2023 MPO Board meeting.

Charlotte County Transit is hosting a Trunk or Treat event during FDOT’s Mobility week on October 28, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Port Charlotte Library.

15. Member Comments

Bob Logan thanked the teams from Charlotte County Lighting and Public Works for their attendance and participation at this meeting and commended them on doing a great job.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, *the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.*

(The next scheduled meeting of the BPAC is **November 16, 2023** at the Charlotte County Administration Center 18500 Murdock Circle Room B106, Port Charlotte, Florida)