



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY – PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

MINUTES OF THE MPO BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2024
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 Joseph Tiseo, Charlotte County Commissioner
Commissioner Thomas Thornberry, Charlotte County Airport Authority
Mayor Lynne Matthews, Punta Gorda City Council

ADVISORY

L.K. Nandam, FDOT District One Secretary

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
Kimlyn Walker, Assistant County Attorney (MPO Legal Services)

OTHERS PRESENT IN-PERSON

Ken Doherty, Charlotte County Commissioner
David Darm, Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
Sheri Powers, Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
Isabella Morales, Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
Wayne Gaither, FDOT
Victoria Peters, FDOT
Kyle Purvis, FDOT
Jason Heironimus, FDOT PIO
Dianne Quilty, CAC Chair
Mitchell Austin, TAC Chair

James Wernicke, BPAC Chair
Joanne Vernon, Charlotte County Public Works
Robert Fakhri, Charlotte County Public Works
Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Community Development
Heidi Maddox, Charlotte County Transit
Shirley Ciampi, Charlotte County Transit
Derek Rooney, Lee MPO
Kayla Huetten, Benesch
William Roll, Kimley-Horn
Harry Fish, citizen
Sam Besase, citizen

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

MPO Chair Constance called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All board members were present.

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

MPO Board Chair Christopher Constance gave the invocation due to Pastor Bill Frank’s absence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Addition and/or Deletion to the Agenda

D’Juan Harris noted that there was an addition under Agenda Item #10 FDOT Report. It was 1.G. [SR 776 @ Toledo Blade Intersection Discussion](#)

Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to approve all changes including those to the agenda. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

6. Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Award Presentations – CTD Executive Director David Darm

D’Juan Harris explained that due to cancellation of the CTD’s Annual Training Conference caused by Hurricane Idalia, a request had been made to present two awards at the MPO Board Meeting.

Charlotte County Commissioner/Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Chair Ken Doherty received the Elected Official of the Year Award from CTD Executive Director David Darm. Following Commissioner Doherty’s remarks, Commissioner Tiseo noted how important Commissioner Doherty’s presence on the Charlotte County Board of County

Commissioners was especially in light of his experience as a licensed professional engineer which was of great value to the community and was reflected on his LCB Board assignment.

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO received the Planning Agency of the Year Award from CTD Executive Director David Darm. Commissioner Constance congratulated Commissioner Constance and the MPO staff on their well-deserved awards.

7. PUBLIC MEETING: FY 2023/2024 – FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment/Modification

FDOT Staff requested the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approve the following two STIP/TIP Amendments in the current FY 2023/24 – FY 2027/28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at the March 21, 2024, MPO Board Meeting:

- 1. 434965-5 Harborview Road from Melbourne Street to I-75 – This amendment adjusts currently programmed project cost estimates for right-of-way phase.**
- 2. 436928-3 Burnt Store from Lee/Charlotte County Line to Wallaby Lane – This amendment adds this as a new project for roadway improvements in Charlotte County.**

A STIP/TIP amendment is required to the MPO’s TIP and the Statewide STIP when a major change occurs to a project. These changes include, addition or deletion of a project, a major change in project cost, project phase initiation dates, or a major change in design concept or design scope (i.e., changing project termini or the number of through traffic lanes). [23 C.F.R. 450.104].

An amendment requires public review and comment, demonstration of financial constraint, or a conformity determination, if applicable. The proposed TIP amendments are included as Attachments 1 and 2.

FDOT requested MPO staff to administratively modify the current TIP to add earmark funding for two Charlotte County projects: intersection improvements at Kings Highway/Harbor and Veterans Boulevard/Cochran Boulevard. Lastly, Hurricane Idalia Recovery funding was requested to be added to the MPO’s current TIP. Administrative modification requests do not require board approval; however, these projects were included in this agenda item for informational and transparency purposes. The administrative modification requests are included as Attachment 3.

1. FDOT TIP Amendment letter dated 02/19/2024 for:
 - [434965-5 Harborview Road from Melbourne Street to I-75](#)
2. FDOT TIP Amendment letter dated 01/10/2024 for:
 - [436928-3 Burnt Store from Lee/Charlotte County Line to Wallaby Lane](#)

- FDOT Administrative modification letter dated 02/22/2024 for:
- [452857-1 - Kings Highway & Harbor View Road Intersection](#)

- [452858-1 - Veterans Boulevard Corridor Improvements](#)
- [453669-1 - Hurricane Idalia Disaster Recovery Funding](#)

Commissioner Constance opened the Public Meeting. No one wished to speak on the item.

Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to close the Public Meeting. Mayor Matthews seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Mayor Matthews made a Motion to approve the amendments to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's FY 2024 through FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion. It carried unanimously in a roll call vote. Administrative modification requests were provided for informational purposes only.

8. Chairs' Reports:

A. MPO Board Chair's Report

MPO Chair Constance reserved his comments for later in the meeting, under newly added Agenda Item #10 FDOT Report I.G. SR 776@Toledo Blade Blvd.

B. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair's Report

CAC Chair Dianne Quilty reviewed the highlights of the March 6, 2024 CAC Meeting:

Commissioner Constance confirmed with Dianne Quilty the location of the CAC-recommended striping (CR 771 and Ingraham Blvd) to make two lanes available instead of the existing single lane. He requested that County staff analyze the location.

C. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair's Report

TAC Chair Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda Urban Design Manager, gave the TAC Report, describing discussions at the March 6, 2024 TAC Meeting. He noted that the TAC Minutes could be found in the MPO Board Meeting packet, and all items requiring a vote had been recommended for MPO Board approval. He described the LRTP as the MPO's most important document for the local transportation network. He encouraged all to participate in the process.

D. Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair's Report

Noting that a full quorum had been present, BPAC Chair James Wernicke reviewed the March 7, 2024 BPAC Meeting highlights:

- Transit Development Plan presentation by Heidi Maddox/interest in fixed route service
- Tanya Merkle and Betty-Ann Sherer - Interest in a new state tool and enthusiasm about counters and how they work
- US 41 and Cochran Blvd/BPAC concern for bicyclists (counter-worthy location)

- Sheriff's report on fatalities with similar increases nationwide/aggressive driving/inclined front of cars/enforcement needed in addition to roadway design/dangers of scooters used on sidewalks
- traffic and pedestrian concerns on SR 776 during Rays Spring Training games/need to schedule street sweeping during low visitor periods
- recommendation for MPO Board approval of joint certification/LRTP Scope/Passenger Rail Resolution
- Major regional trails discussion/Brittany Metzler to report back on US Bicycle Route 15
- SS4A outreach efforts at Pedal and Play Bicycle event in Punta Gorda on March 23.

Discussion followed with comments by Commissioner Deutsch, James Wernicke, FDOT Secretary Nandam and Mayor Matthews regarding motorized scooters, bicycles, motorized bicycles (e-bikes) and motorized tricycles. Questions arose regarding where each type of vehicle may operate safely, driver age limits and licensing, and required operating and safety rules.

9. Local Government Reports:

A. Charlotte County Airport Authority

Commissioner Thornberry stated that he was privileged to represent the Charlotte County Airport Authority at his first MPO Board Meeting. He asked for input on the desired information that he could present at each MPO Board Meeting. He noted that on April 11, 2024, he will have an update on the Airport Capital Improvement process.

Commissioner Thornberry's update was contained in the MPO packet:

- The CCAA board signed a unanimous resolution against exploring or pursuing privatization of the Airport.
- CCAP anticipates surpassing the 2 million passengers count this year.
- Mr. Parish really appreciated the meeting last week that was arranged by the MPO with FDOT. It gave his team a chance to talk about issues around the airport campus that were not specifically Airport related. It was also nice to get updates directly on projects that will affect us in the future.
- The State Budget includes 2.75 million for CTC Hangar, that is 50% of the requested amount and 3.75 million for our infrastructure request again 50%. The infrastructure requests comes from FDOT funds but the budget supplemented the funds this year so it should make it through the VETO pen.

Commissioner Tiseo referenced a PowerPoint presentation that he had viewed at a recent Chamber event. It was given by Economic Development Director Dave Gammon. The majority of the presentation focused on the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP). Commissioner Tiseo described it as a great presentation containing amazing statistics with more growth occurring in the last 2 years than the previous 20 years. He felt it would be beneficial to request that this presentation be given to the Charlotte County Airport Authority.

B. City of Punta Gorda

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

- Replacement of 7.25 miles of damaged seawalls continues within PGI and BSI. Approximately 24% of the seawalls have been repaired as of February 2024.
- The Laishley Park Splash Pad construction has begun. The new tank has been installed. Demolition and construction continues in other areas of the project.
- The Boca Grande drainage project area 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. The engineering consultant is nearing completion of the final plans and specifications for the project. Work continues on the environmental review for the project and coordination with Seminole Gulf Railway on approval for the project.
- All known street identification signs related to Hurricane Ian damages have been installed.
- The replacement of the Ponce Park boardwalk and improvements to the fishing piers have been completed.
- Beach renourishment to the Ponce Park beach area continues to be completed.
- The drainage pipe under Bal Harbor Boulevard just to the south of Marion Avenue has been completed.
- The City continues work in the fiscal year 2024 annual swale program to improve drainage to areas that are not meeting the City's 72-hour level of service policy.

Mayor Matthews also commented on \$7.3 Million received recently for a Hurricane Irma seawall project. She noted that portions of US 41 and US 17 are dangerously dark due to Hurricane Ian-related storm damage to street lighting. The Henry Street force main project now underway is 40-50% complete. She had recently attended the Hyper Fiber ribbon cutting in the City. With the company planning to lay fiber optic cable next on the north side of the Peace River Bridges in the Deep Creek and Harbor Heights areas, she recommended to County officials that they make certain that the utilities are marked before work commences to prevent damage.

Commissioner Constance asked when the Punta Gorda Hotel demolition would occur. Mayor Matthews indicated that the project is still awaiting permitting.

C. Charlotte County

Commissioner Tiseo provided the County report on the following items:

Various Intersection Improvements:

- Veterans Boulevard @ Cochran Boulevard intersection. 90% plans have been reviewed by Charlotte County staff and returned to consultant for updates. Final plans are due on March 04, 2024
- Veterans Boulevard @ Torrington Street intersection. 90% plans have been reviewed by Charlotte County staff and returned to consultant for updates.
- Veterans Boulevard @ Loveland Boulevard intersection. 90% plans have been reviewed by Charlotte County staff and returned to consultant for updates.
- Peachland Boulevard @ Harbor Boulevard intersection. Design survey has started. 60% plans are due for review on October 18, 2024
- Veterans Boulevard @ Atwater Street intersection. Design survey has started. 60% plans are due for review on June 06, 2024
- Veterans Boulevard @ Yorkshire Street intersection. 60% plans have been reviewed by Charlotte County staff and returned to consultant for updates. 90% plans are due for review on March 21, 2024
- Veterans Boulevard @ Harbor Boulevard intersection. 60% plans have been reviewed by Charlotte County staff and returned to consultant for updates. 90% plans are due for review on March 28, 2024
- Veterans Boulevard @ Orlando Boulevard intersection. Design survey has started. 60% plans are due for review on April 4, 2024

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: December 13, 2023

Flamingo/Edgewater Widening:

Latest Updates:

- 95% of field survey work has been completed.
- Protected species and wetlands evaluation in process.
- 95% of geotechnical field work has been completed.
- 90% roadway plans are in progress.
- 90% bridge plans are in progress.
- 90% utility plans are in progress.
- Property acquisition in progress. Including work leading up to imminent domain process.
- The process has started to obtain the necessary SWFWMD permit.
- Coordination to resolve outside utility conflicts is ongoing.
- FDOT Lap project review is in progress.
- Agency permitting review in progress.

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: September 30th, 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.

Latest Updates:

Final construction plans have been submitted. County staff is currently reviewing.

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: December 30th, 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.

Latest Updates:

- 60% plans have been reviewed by county staff. Comments have been returned to Johnson Engineering for corrections.
- 90% plans are due on May 20th, 2024.

Design Development Forecast Completion Date: October 15th, 2024

10. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

Secretary Nandam stated that the Legislative Session had ended, and the budget had been approved and was awaiting gubernatorial review and approval. He described the difficult funding decisions faced by FDOT staff with the loss of excess General Revenue funding. In District One, FDOT staff must decide \$58 Million worth of Trust Fund projects in the next fiscal year to defer into outer years. Tough choices would need to be made to be submitted to Central Office to develop the finance plan. The Trust Fund dynamics of local project funding is back, and Secretary Nandam requested that local governments carefully consider which projects to move forward.

In Pam Barr’s absence, Victoria Peters provided updates on various projects:

FDOT Led Discussion

[FDOT Item PP](#)

	FPID #	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
A.	N/A	<u>SR 776 Hurricane Damaged Signs & Poles</u> Secretary Nandam described Hurricane Ian’s impact on the twelve District One counties which resulted in varying amounts and types of damage and required detailed assessment of needed repairs. In the areas of Sanibel and Pine Island alone, about \$400 Million worth of

		<p>work was required for emergency work. Street light and sign damage was tremendous. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) doesn't consider them as emergency items, so they are not reimbursable. The total number of District One street lights was over 1000 poles, and they need to be brought up to current standards. FDOT completed the design and hired a contractor in January to do repairs, and there is a May/June 2024 timeframe for sign replacement. Street lights require close to eight months to get materials, so it will be more than a year from now to complete repairs. This was a large powerful unprecedented storm, and FDOT was forced to do repairs while doing other routine work. FDOT staff was on top of the needs, but the process has taken a lot of time. FDOT is asking for the community's patience. Commissioner Tiseo thanked Secretary Nandam for the update which he was circulating to citizens in West County. He had heard complaints that Charlotte County had been neglected compared to other areas. Secretary Nandam remarked that FDOT is aware of the needs, and some roadways are not federal aid eligible (those that are not in the State Highway System). Sizable contracts had been negotiated for large amounts of work. Commissioner Tiseo inquired if Charlotte County was the last County to be addressed. Secretary Nandam noted that Charlotte had the most street lights impacted. There are other counties in the same street light situation. Commissioner Deutsch was sympathetic and understands the issues. He noted that Charlotte County's Edgewater Drive decorative lights will not be completed until sometime next year.</p>
B.	N/A	<p><u>US 41 at Olean Boulevard</u> (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County) Design plans would be finalized in the next few weeks. Construction completion is scheduled by the end of calendar year 2024. There had been mast arm procurement delays.</p>
C.	N/A	<p><u>US 41 at Harbor View Rd/Edgewater Dr</u> (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County) Construction is complete. County staff will install new traffic controllers to implement new timings with full functionality expected very soon.</p>
D.	446340-1	<p><u>SR 776 at Flamingo Boulevard</u> (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither -FDOT/ Robert Fakhri -Charlotte County) The project is entering the design phase. D'Juan Harris stated that there were no new updates on this project.</p>
E.	446393-1	<p><u>SR 776 at Charlotte Sports Park</u> – Intersection Improvements (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither -FDOT/ Robert Fakhri - Charlotte County) Sports Park. The Charlotte County design phase is about to begin. Charlotte County is requesting an additional \$167 thousand in funding construction phase of this LAP project.</p>
F.	N/A	<p><u>I-75 Possible New Interchange North of Kings Hwy Interchange</u> (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT) There is ongoing coordination between Charlotte County, the City of North Port and the Sarasota/Manatee MPO. Charlotte County does not yet have the needed volumes to support a new interchange, so local governments'</p>

		attention instead is currently focused on improving local roadway connections.
G.	N/A	<p><u>SR 776 @ Toledo Blade Intersection Discussion</u></p> <p>This study is on the MPO website. Commissioner Constance utilized a map to display an issue that occurs when folks are leaving the Spring Training baseball games to go east and north to I-75. A single turn lane is woefully inadequate. Currently, it is striped. There is a turn on Como Street in the opposite direction that makes for a tough configuration. One solution might be a double stack. Numerous cycles of the light are required. Perhaps posting a sheriff post-game to get vehicles off of SR 776 would be a short-term solution. Secretary Nandam agreed with Commissioner Constance. Long-term, the left turn lane on SR 776 could be opened up whenever Toledo Blade Blvd is widened by the County (a small segment could be striped). In the interim, the Sheriff's office could control the issue. Commissioner Constance described Toledo Blade Blvd as a quagmire. He believed there was a need to maximize the footprint on SR 776 going to Toledo Blade Blvd by making a small segment. Commissioner Tiseo spoke against spending excessively on roadway (utilized for one month only of baseball home games) that would eventually be ripped up. Commissioner Constance concurred that it would be nice to have a simple and inexpensive fix. Commissioner Tiseo also questioned why people are allowed to cross the road from the Fairgrounds. He believed that all traffic should be sent to the Sports Park (except when an overflow lot was needed). However, the Fairgrounds location is privately operated. Commissioner Deutsch discussed how a pedestrian overpass had been considered, but due to ADA requirements, the cost was too substantial. Currently, law enforcement officers are utilized to direct pedestrians across the roadway. Perhaps waiting for larger pedestrian groups to form would be helpful. Secretary Nandam offered to have his staff work with County staff to develop a potential minor widening on Toledo Blade Boulevard and develop cost estimates. Commissioner Constance thanked him for his assistance.</p>

Joint Local and FDOT Discussion

Given the absence of John Elias, Robert Fakhri provided updates on various projects:

	FPID #	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
A.	434965-1 434965-2 434965-3 434965-4 434965-5	<p><u>Harbor View Road</u> Combined Funding Strategies (Wayne Gaither-FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County) The County continues to seek funding from Federal and State sources.</p> <p><u>FDOT 12/05/2023 PUBLIC HEARING DOCUMENTS</u></p>
B.	446391-1	<p><u>US 41 from Kings Hwy to Peace River Bridge</u> Planning/Operational Improvements Study</p>

		(Wayne Gaither-FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County) Funding is scheduled for July 2024 to initiate the study.
C.	N/A	<u>Bermont Road (CR 74) Safety Discussion</u> (FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County) Robert Fakhri had nothing to report.
D.	436928-3	<u>Burnt Store Road – From Lee/Charlotte C/L to Wallaby Lane</u> (FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County) Charlotte County is applying for Right-of-Way and Construction funding (perhaps for Design/Build).
E.	N/A	<u>Burnt Store Road @ Home Depot/ US 41 @ Madrid Blvd</u> Signal/Access Management No funding is available from Charlotte County at this time.
F.	N/A	<u>US 41 @ Rio Villa Drive/Baynard Drive</u> Discussion Robert Fakhri reported that the County has done some reshaping of the swales. There is no parking on Baynard Drive. Mayor Matthews observed that the situation on Baynard is getting worse by the day ever since Rio Villa Drive’s left turn lane was closed. There is always a traffic backup at the location where five roads converge in the Aqui Esta Drive area. Accidents are horrendous which could be verified by the Punta Gorda Police. This is a major concern to her. She described the need for a dedicated right turn lane south from Aqui Esta Drive onto US 41, which would greatly loosen up the intersection. Drivers are trying to dart across Aqui Esta Drive on Baynard Drive, and there are numerous contractor trucks. Baynard Drive is being beaten up with truck traffic as well as RV storage traffic. Critical public safety is her number one priority.

Mayor Matthews wants the City and the County to cooperatively fund the Burnt Store Road traffic light at the Home Depot. She reported that residents in the adjacent mobile home parks are frightened since they cannot exit their neighborhoods safely. They have requested additional law enforcement presence in the area.

Victoria Peters noted that FDOT wants to congratulate the D’Juan Harris and all MPO staff on their successful joint certification results. The MPO obtained a low risk ranking which reflects excellent work and a consistently high turn in of required deliverables indicative of a job well done.

Commissioner Tiseo noted that the Harbor View Road project would be discussed at the next week’s BCC meeting under a legislative update. Unfortunately, the County had not received funding for Right-of-Way acquisition on the roadway. He asked Secretary Nandam for any comments or strategies. Secretary Nandam recommended that County officials speak to their federal delegation. He also stated that FDOT will continue to look for any additional funding opportunities, although resources have been flatter and costs have soared. Commissioner Constance described Sarasota’s successful additional penny sales tax in 2008, and they got all

their work done at a cheaper price. Commissioner Tiseo noted that funding estimates had essentially doubled.

11. Consent Agenda:

- A. [Approval of Minutes: December 18, 2023, Regular MPO Board Meeting](#)
- B. [Approval of Minutes: Joint Regional Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board Meeting – January 29, 2024](#)
- C. [Approval of Minutes: Joint Regional Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and Lee County MPO Board Meeting – February 16, 2024](#)
- D. [Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board \(LCB\) Appointment](#)
- E. [Citizens' Advisory Committee \(CAC\) Reappointment](#)
- F. [Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee \(BPAC\) Appointment](#)

Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

12. 2023 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)/Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Joint Certification

Each year the FDOT and the MPO must jointly certify the metropolitan transportation planning process as described in **23 U.S.C. 134(k) (15)** and **23 C.F.R. 450.334 (a)**. The joint certification begins in January. This allows time to incorporate recommended changes into the Draft FY 2025 – FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The District and the MPO create a joint certification package that includes a summary of noteworthy achievements by the MPO and, if applicable, a list of any recommendations and/or corrective actions. The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Joint Certification Package have been reviewed and accurately reflect the results of the joint certification review meeting held on February 21, 2024. Based on the review and evaluation, the Florida Department of Transportation had no recommendations and/or corrective actions.

- 1. [2023 FDOT/MPO Joint Certification/Noteworthy Achievements](#)
- 2. [2023 FDOT/MPO Joint Certification Statement](#)

D’Juan Harris noted that a score of “low risk” was valued, and he appreciated FDOT’s collaboration.

Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to approve the 2023 FDOT/MPO Joint Certification, authorizing the MPO Board Chair to sign the FDOT/MPO Joint Certification Statement. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

13. FY 2022/2023 – FY 2023/2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – De-obligation/Amendment

All MPOs in Florida are required to prepare a two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which describes the transportation planning activities for the MPO in narrative form and establishes the MPO budget over a 2-year time period. This 2-year UPWP was approved by

the MPO Board at their May 16, 2022 meeting. Federal and State regulations govern the types of activities that are eligible for federal and state funding. MPO staff recommends amending FY 2024 UPWP by de-obligating \$238,531 from FY 2022/2023 – FY 2023/2024 into the new draft UPWP FY 2024/2025 – FY 2025/2026 Task 4 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) consultant line. Also included is the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement.

The de-obligation of Federal Planning (PL) funds releases federal funds previously authorized but not expended by the MPO in FY 2023/2024 allowing these funds to be “carried forward” into the new FY 2024/2025 - FY 2025/2026 UPWP. These funds are then available for use by the MPO by October 2024.

D’Juan Harris briefly spoke regarding the UPWP De-obligation/Amendment.

Budget Action: Moving \$238,531 from FY 2022/2023 – FY 2023/2024 Task 4-Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) consultant line and adding it into the new draft FY 2024/2025 – FY 2025/2026 UPWP Task 4 – LRTP consultant line.

1. [Proposed UPWP Task Sheet and Funding/Summary tables](#)
2. [Amendment to the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement](#)
3. [FDOT Cost Analysis Certification Form](#)

Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to approve the current FY 2023/2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) by de-obligation of PL Funds totaling \$238,531 as well as amending the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement and allowing staff to make appropriate minor revisions as recommended by FDOT/FHWA. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

14. Draft FY 2024/2025 – FY 2025/2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025 through Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement describes the transportation planning activities and establishes the MPO budget for the next two State Fiscal Years. The State Fiscal Year begins on July 1, 2024. The UPWP includes a narrative of the work to be accomplished and the cost estimates anticipated for each task activity. Federal and state regulations govern the types of activities that are eligible for federal and state funding. The MPO has agreed to participate in the Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) program, starting with the State Fiscal Year FY 2024/2025 through FY 2025/2026 two-year UPWP cycle. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will serve as the CPG lead grant agency in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 8100.D. Under the CPG, the FTA and FHWA annually provide lump sum appropriations to allocate to MPOs for approved planning activities or tasks. The federal funds are leveraged by the MPO categorically, as FTA 5305(d) and FHWA planning (PL) funding. The MPO will utilize the CPG agreement to combine the MPO FTA 5305(d) and FHWA PL funding allocations into a single grant that is administered by FHWA.

The Draft FY 2024/2025– FY 2025/2026 UPWP also includes Transportation Disadvantaged Planning funds and Section 5307 funding.

Budget Action: No impact to budget. This agenda item defines the MPO budget for two years using funds from state, federal and local sources.

[Draft FY 2024/2025 through FY 2025/2026 UPWP/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement](#)

D’Juan Harris stated that comments were currently being taken on the document that constituted the MPO’s next two year budget.

Commissioner Deutsch made a Motion to forward the Draft FY 2024/2025-FY 2025/2026 UPWP/Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement to appropriate reviewing agencies, allowing staff to make appropriate revisions as needed. Commissioner Tiseo seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

15. Draft FY 2024/2025 – FY 2028/2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

D’Juan Harris briefly reviewed the TIP agenda item. Federal and State legislation require MPOs to adopt a five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP outlines federal and state capital improvements for transportation and is a staged, multi-year, intermodal program of transportation projects that is consistent with the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Technical and Citizens’ Advisory Committees formally review the development of the TIP.

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO is scheduled to review and adopt the TIP at the May 20, 2024, MPO Board Meeting. Attachment 1 is the Draft Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO TIP for FY 2024/2025 - FY 2029/2030.

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO entered into an interlocal agreement with Sarasota – Manatee MPO and Lee County MPO, formalizing and specifying regional planning projects along with time frames to produce those projects. The agreement calls for each MPO to identify regional priorities and include those projects in the respective MPO’s TIP. Those priorities that were adopted last year are included, in accordance with the interlocal agreement in the TIP.

MPO Board Members were asked to review and comment on the Draft FY 2024/2025 through FY 2028/2029 Transportation Improvement Program.

[Draft 2024/2025 through FY 2028/2029 Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)

There were no Member comments on the item. Commissioner Constance thanked staff for their strong work with document development.

16. 2024 Draft Project Priorities

Florida Statute 339.175(8) requires every MPO in the state to develop an annual List of Project Priorities (LOPP) consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the MPO’s adopted 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The LOPP are used in developing the next draft FDOT Five-Year Work Program and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

A preliminary list of project priorities along with project applications will be submitted to FDOT District One by March 29, 2024. The project priorities must be approved by the MPO Board and submitted to FDOT by July 1, 2024.

The MPO received candidate projects from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County. These projects include Highway, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Congestion Mitigation/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM), and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) projects. Attachment 2 is the list of project priorities previously approved by the MPO Board at the May 2022 meeting.

MPO staff provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 List of Project Priorities. The final list will be presented at the May 20, 2024 MPO Board meeting for adoption. The prioritized list is then transmitted to FDOT for consideration of funding during development of the FY 2026 through FY 2030 Draft Tentative Work Program.

D’Juan Harris stated that the document was a first glance of the Draft List of Project Priorities and would be brought back the MPO Board in May for final approval.. As noted by Secretary Nandam, this was currently a time of stagnant revenues and increased costs. Hopefully, opportunities such as the SS4A and RAISE grants, might make up some of the funding shortfalls. Mayor Matthews inquired about the deletion of the Roundabout Project on Piper Roar. D’Juan Harris clarified the roundabout project would be removed from the List of Project Priorities since it is programmed through construction. D’Juan Harris stated that the project priority language would be changed for clarity.

17. 2025-2034 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update

In accordance with Florida Administrative Code 14-73.001, Charlotte County Transit is currently developing the *Charlotte Rides* 2025-2034 Transit Development Plan. The project consultant is Benesch. Ms. Kayla Huetten provided a brief update on current activities including a project timeline.

Data gathered in production of Charlotte County Transit’s TDP will assist the MPO and consultant Kimley-Horn in developing the Transit Element of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Commissioner Deutsch wondered with the advent of Charlotte County Transit’s new technology, how close the system was to providing same day service. Kayla Huetten stated that Heidi Maddox and her team are working on getting the mobile cell phone app running. The TDP effort will be looking at cutting edge technology options. Commissioner Deutsch indicated that he was hoping for same day service. He noted that he made efforts to let the community know about the service by newspaper, ride along trips and veterans’ newsletters. Many citizens are not aware of Charlotte County Transit service. By providing free door to door transportation for anyone living in the County, Charlotte County Transit does an incredible job. The challenge is making certain that people know about it. Heidi Maddox reported that with the new software, Charlotte County Transit was averaging 30 same day trips each business day. Commissioner Deutsch congratulated Ms. Maddox.

18. Southwest Florida Passenger Rail Feasibility Study – Resolution of Support

The MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) launched a Pilot Passenger Rail Priorities Program (PRPP). The goal of this program is to expand rail options across the State of Florida while creating a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated multi-modal network. Potential rail projects in Florida identified through this program will be disseminated to FDOT for potential leveraging of funds available under the Florida Rail Enterprise, and federal discretionary rail grants available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Staff from the four Southwest Florida MPOs including Collier, Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota/Manatee have coordinated with each other and have agreed to submit a Joint Priority Request under this program for a Southwest Florida Rail Study.

A Rail Study would investigate the feasibility of implementing an inter-city or high-speed rail service on I-75 utilizing the median multi-modal transit envelope (median) and connecting all four metropolitan areas with existing and planned passenger rail network currently in planning phases to Tampa.

1. [Southwest Florida Passenger Rail Presentation](#)
2. [Southwest Florida MPOs Joint Resolution](#)
3. [MPOAC Passenger Rail Passenger Priorities Application](#)

D’Juan Harris noted that concerns had been addressed since the item was discussed at the previous MPO Board Meeting. Fortunately, due to the delay, three MPO committees were able to review the rail feasibility study request and resolution. All other area MPOs already had endorsed the resolution.

Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to approve and adopt the attached Joint Resolution to support the MPOAC Passenger Rail Program Priority Application for a Southwest Florida Passenger Rail Feasibility Study. Mayor Matthews seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

19. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) - Scope

On May 15, 2023, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board executed a contract with Kimley Horn & Associates to undertake tasks outlined in Task 1 - 2050 Socio - Economic Data Development and Task 2 update of the 2050 LRTP. The scope of work under Task 1 is to complete the 2050 Socio -Economic Data Development. At the December 18, 2023, MPO Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved the 2050 Socio -Economic Data Update.

The 2050 LRTP update will commence under Task 2 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. The proposed budget for the update of the LRTP will be allocated over three fiscal years. (FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026).

MPO Staff is currently coordinating with Kimley Horn to finalize a draft Scope of Services to develop the MPO’s 2050 LRTP update. The total cost to develop the update of the 2050 LRTP is \$349,998.35. Once the attached Draft Scope of Services and Work Assignment Order is

approved, a Notice to Proceed will be issued to begin work on the 2050 LRTP which must be adopted no later than October 5, 2025.

1. [2050 LRTP Update Scope of Services](#)
2. [Work Assignment Order](#)

William Roll from Kimley Horn discussed the second phase of the LRTP project. It will be completed by next year.

Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to approve the 2050 LRTP Update draft Scope of Services allowing MPO Staff to finalize scope of services and authorize the MPO chair to sign the Work Assignment Order. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

20. [2020 Urban Area/Roadway Functional Classification Update- Final](#)

Every 10 years following the United States Bureau of the Census issues revised urban area boundary maps. Each MPO/TPO in the nation must review these boundary maps and either adopt them or adjust them for transportation planning purposes.

FDOT maintains a categorized roadway network consistent with the Federal Functional Classification system. While the functional classification of some roadways can and do change within or on an adjusted urban area boundary, the functional classification of those roadways also changes as urban roads. These changes can take the form of newly constructed, re-aligned, extended, widened, or otherwise reconfigured roadways. Equally important are changing land use and development patterns. Growing residential areas, newly developed commercial or industrial centers, and construction of isolated traffic generators can all have a profound impact on the roadway network serving these developments.

The first step in the process of updating the Federal Functional Classification of Roadways is to determine the urban area boundary maps. FDOT staff coordinated with staff from Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda to agree on the revised urban boundary maps. The proposed 2023 Adjusted Urban Boundary map for the MPO Planning Area was presented by Kyle Purvis to the MPO Board for approval at the March 21, 2024, meeting.

1. [Executive Summary](#)
2. [Federal Functional Classification and Urban Area Update PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to approve the Urban Area Boundary and Roadway Functional Classification map updates for Charlotte County. Mayor Matthews seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

21. [Public Comments](#)

There were no public comments.

22. Staff Comments

D’Juan Harris had provided MPO Board Members with three letters of correspondence:

- February 26, 2024 letter from Pam Barr to D’Juan Harris regarding FDOT Response to the MPO Comments on Draft Tentative Work Program Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2029
- December 21, 2023 letter from D’Juan Harris to Wayne Gaither regarding MPO Comments on Draft Tentative Work Program Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2029
- March 11, 2024 letter from MPO Chair Christopher Constance to Sarasota/Manatee MPO Chair Gene Brown regarding Collaboration on River Road Transportation Enhancements

D’Juan Harris encouraged the MPO Board Members to visit the MPO’s revamped and reorganized website. He commented that the reorganized page allows for easier access to planning documents and was all done in-house by MPO Staff.

Mr. Harris announced that the MPO staff was currently accepting Peggy Walters Award nominations. This award recognizes a citizen or group who has contributed to transportation planning efforts. June 30, 2024 is the deadline for nominations.

D’Juan Harris noted that the MPO has a new office location on Loveland Blvd. He thanked County Facilities for helping establish these new quarters and the County Real Estate staff for allowing the MPO staff to use the Real Estate Conference Room for last 18 months following Hurricane Ian’s damage done at the County Utilities Eastport campus.

Mr. Harris discussed the ADA project under the US 41 Boardwalks in Punta Gorda. Given significant Hurricane Ian damage to the Punta Gorda Hotel and Hurricane Charley’s restaurant, the parking lot that leads to the “beneath the bridge” walkways are blocked off. The only safe crossing of US 41 in this area is at Retta Esplanade. The CAC Members had requested flashing beacons from FDOT, but at this time no funding is currently available. If the hotel property is sold, the opportunity for a public private partnership exists.

D’Juan Harris discussed the Safe Streets for All efforts. MPO staff would be present on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the Pedal and Play in Paradise event in downtown Punta Gorda with plenty of activities planned until mid-morning.

23. Member Comments

Commissioner Thornberry thanked D’Juan Harris and the entire MPO Staff, stating that he was highly impressed with the organization and appreciated all the guidance.

Commissioner Constance noted that D’Juan Harris possesses a wealth of knowledge.

Commissioner Tiseo stated that the MPOAC was not impacted by proposed legislation, since the bill was not approved during the legislative session. Secretary Nandam observed that many amendments were made to the original bill. He recommended that MPOs statewide and the MPOAC should meet with legislators to address concerns before the next session. Commissioner Tiseo noted that he has a meeting conflict with the April 25, 2024 MPOAC

Governing Board Member Meeting, but could do a call-in for his other meeting that afternoon. No other MPO Board Members were available to attend. Commissioner Tiseo stated that he would attend both meetings.

24. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the MPO Board will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119, Port Charlotte, Florida, 33948.