



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

MINUTES OF THE MPO BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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 Joseph Tiseo**, Charlotte County Commissioner  
**Commissioner James Herston**, Charlotte County Airport Authority, Airport Vice Chair  
**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  
Janette Knowlton, County Attorney (MPO Legal Services)

**OTHERS PRESENT IN-PERSON**

H. Wayne Gaither, FDOT  
Pam Barr, FDOT  
Kyle Purvis, FDOT  
Steven Davis, FDOT  
Katie Shannon, VHB  
Dianne Quilty, CAC Chair  
Rick Kirchhoff, CAC  
Pauline Klein, BPAC Chair/CAC  
John Elias, Charlotte County Public Works  
Joanne Vernon, Charlotte County Public Works

Robert Fakhri, Charlotte County Public Works  
Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Community Development  
Elaine Allen-Emrich, Sun Newspaper

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

MPO Chair Constance called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. All board members were present.

**2. Invocation – Pastor Steve Glover – Deep Creek Community Church**

Pastor Steve Glover did not attend, so MPO Chair Constance gave 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.

*Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Matthews seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.*

**5. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

**6. PUBLIC MEETING: [FY 2023/2024 – FY 2027/2028 TIP Roll Forward Amendment](#)**

The MPO staff received a request from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's FY 2023/2024 – FY 2027/2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). D’Juan Harris commented that for full public transparency purposes, projects programmed with federal funding that have residual funding remaining from the previous fiscal year (FY 2023) must be accounted for in the MPO's current Transportation Improvement Program. A roll call vote on the amendment was required. Specifically, the roll forward report includes projects in the previous state fiscal year that were not commenced, have uncommitted portions of projects that have started and or have funds remaining on completed projects. These projects automatically roll forward in FDOT's Work Program and need to be accounted for in the MPO's new TIP. This amendment is required to account for these projects ([FDOT Charlotte County MPO Roll Forward Report](#)) in the FY 2024 through FY 2028 TIP.

The Technical and Citizens' Advisory Committees formally reviewed and recommended MPO Board adoption of the FY 2023/2024 – FY 2027/2028 TIP as presented at their September 27, 2023 meetings. A Public Meeting was required to solicit public input.

*Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to close the Public Meeting. Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.*

*Mayor Matthews made a motion to amend the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's TIP for FY 2023/2024 – FY 2027/2028 adding: Roll-forward projects from FY 2023/2024 which could not be obligated during the State's Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023.*

*Commissioner Deutsch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.*

## **7. Chairs' Reports:**

### **A. MPO Board Chair's Report**

MPO Chair Constance discussed an informational item, the Sunseeker Resort entrance's ongoing signal construction which was experiencing delays due to supply chain issues. He requested that MPO Board Members receive site plans for both interim (prior to signal installation) and final (once entry signal is installed) intersection construction. Mayor Matthews read into the record an email from Micah Richins, President/COO of Sunseeker Resorts: [Sunseeker 10 13 2023 Email to Mayor Matthews](#) . A hard copy of the email was provided to MPO Board Members. Commissioner Constance appreciated the Mayor's update giving the Resort's perspective. L.K. Nandam responded that there had been some delays on the part of the Sunseeker Resorts as well. He defended FDOT staff (from multiple offices) who had done and would continue to do their parts to expedite reviews. He noted that the interim solution occurred because of supply chain issues, and the box that directs the signal changes has been delayed. FDOT staff believed that the lack of a signal would not be an issue as the Sunseeker Resort opened for business, but FDOT would like to have it completed by that time.

Commissioner Tiseo asked if signalization had been required at the entrance location when the resort project was initially permitted. Wayne Gaither stated that it was his understanding when talking with County staff that the original intention was to locate the signal further north at the US 41 and Main Street intersection. The location later changed during the review process, moving the proposed signal to the Resort's main entrance/egress which was located further south on US 41. This had occurred more than a year ago. John Elias verified to Commissioner Tiseo that the resort's opening was not contingent upon having the signal in place. Commissioner Tiseo wondered how the Sunseeker Resort's current roadwork would work without a signal in place prior to final intersection completion. Commissioner Constance described the current interim construction at the location which included a long-left hand turn into a U shape, as well as the need to cut across two lanes of traffic. Commissioner Tiseo commented that members of the public would like to review some kind of site plan, since it was of great public interest. Commissioner Constance stated that various phases of the site plan were needed for informational purposes, since they were never taken before the Board of County Commissioners, the MPO or the press, and it was necessary to educate everyone on the matter. L.K. Nandam noted that there needs to be a joint presentation given to the MPO Board by County and FDOT staff. He discussed how FDOT develops approval based upon buildout which is triggered by traffic volume. Commissioner Constance noted that there was agreement to bring the matter back for discussion. He also welcomed L.K. Nandam back from his temporary work assignment in Tallahassee. Commissioner Constance asked John Elias to provide site plans for: (1) the original location (Main Street), (2) the revised main entrance, and (3) the interim approach (prior to final signalization). This was particularly important, since many out of area visitors were being brought to the location very soon. Commissioner Deutsch believed the signal location

was changed about 2 ½ years ago. He felt that the FDOT review period of 30 days was reasonable (compared to federal agencies), and he was not concerned about the review. He stressed the need for the traffic light to be ordered promptly. He noted a problem at the left hand turn when coming south from Bayshore Road onto Main Street to access an employee/delivery entrance, where it was impossible for a truck to negotiate the turn without going over the median and damaging a sign. Commissioner Herston noted that in his opinion, the location does not meet County engineering standards. Commissioner Herston stated that perhaps some median reduction work could be accomplished. John Elias had reviewed the area and noted that it was a future pedestrian crossing area. Commissioner Herston applauded Wayne Gaither for his quick response previously in honoring his requests for information.

John Elias also responded to a request for information regarding FDOT roadway lighting work completion on SR 776. He stated that January or February 2024 was a more realistic estimate than previously stated for project completion of hurricane restoration work. All FPL-managed street lighting throughout Charlotte County has been restored. Since high pressure sodium lighting is no longer available, going forward all lighting will be done with LED.

Commissioner Constance distributed copies of a letter sent by Charlotte County Commissioner Ken Doherty on behalf of his County District One to Congressman Steube, Senator Rubio and Senator Scott. The letters were written in opposition to two legislative proposals to allow for much heavier tractor-trailer trucks on roadways. Discussion occurred regarding the accuracy of one figure and variation between letters. It was agreed that further discussion of these letters perhaps to be sent from the entire BCC needed to be placed on the upcoming BCC agenda. Commissioner Tiseo believed the topic might also be addressed in the County's legislative position statement. Commissioner Constance noted that opposition to the legislative proposals was also emanating from the National Association of Counties (NACO) and the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). Placement on the BCC agenda would allow for additional public discussion. Commissioner Herston offered to deliver a copy of the letters to the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Director at the MPOAC meeting on October 26, 2023.

## **B. Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair's Report**

CAC Chair Dianne Quilty reviewed September 27, 2023 CAC Meeting highlights:

- County staff member's report
- Discussion of East-West Connector (need to determine cost) US 41 and Burnt Store Road
- Sheriff's representative report on golf carts
- FDOT staff report on approval of Moving Florida Forward projects and discussion of Burnt Store Road improvements.
- Reverse use of Zemel Road as an alternate route for evacuation
- Economic Development report given by Dave Gammon including discussion of the Sunseeker Resort, Melbourne Street impacts (arrival of new Whiskey Joe's to compound traffic issues) including the upcoming traffic study for US 41 in that area and support for affordable workforce initiatives planning.
- Recommendations for all actionable agenda items moved forward by consensus.

- Development by D’Juan Harris and Betty-Ann Sherer of a project priority mapping tool based upon Google Maps which CAC Members noted was “cool” and “easy to use.”
- Concerns with vegetation obscuring vision of drivers turning left from southbound US 41 onto Melbourne Street in front of traffic exiting the northbound US 41 bridge.

Commissioner Tiseo commented that East-West corridor discussions in the Burnt Store Road/US 41 area were still underway. The alternative design of a serpentine roadway was proposed due to the cost of Right-of-Way on another option and to provide an access road for development.

### **C. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair’s Report**

D’Juan Harris gave the TAC report. He noted that Brittany Metzler with the City of Punta Gorda had been a stand-in meeting chair that day. A quorum had been obtained and all recommended action items had been approved. Three well received informational presentations had been given: Economic Development by Dave Gammon, Urban area boundary and functional classification by Kyle Purvis, and rollout of the mapping tool developed by D’Juan Harris and Betty-Ann Sherer that uses Google Maps and contains all project information (from production to construction). Responding to Commissioner Constance’s inquiry, D’Juan Harris stated that no special software was needed, so users could access the information through a Google account.

### **D. Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair’s Report**

BPAC Chair Pauline Klein reviewed the October 5, 2023 BPAC Meeting highlights:

- Quorum was present and all recommended actionable items were approved.
- Presentation by Tanya Merkle on roundabouts and vehicle interaction with bicyclists and pedestrians while using them.
- County report including a long discussion regarding Quesada Avenue and Forrest Nelson Blvd with a request made for a flashing sign at that intersection like the one located at Shreve Street and Marion Avenue
- City report regarding bike path connections.
- Enthusiasm for Betty-Ann Sherer’s quiz game for BPAC Members centered upon bicycle rules which Members believed also could be used in schools.
- Discussion of upcoming MPO project priorities

## **8. Local Government Reports:**

### **A. Charlotte County Airport Authority**

Commissioner Herston, Charlotte County Airport Authority Vice Chairman, provided MPO Board Members with a verbal update. The last Airport Authority Meeting was held on September 21, 2023. It included a final budget hearing. A new firetruck costing \$2 million was funded through passenger fees. Taxiway reconstruction and taxiway intersection improvements were underway, as was lighting and a new hangar. Golf Course Blvd will no longer be a through street, and current traffic will be routed to Challenger Blvd. He also discussed a new Charlotte County Technical College (CTC) aviation training facility, a new in-line baggage system with four belts, and commercial terminal expansion which was in the design phase. The Florida

International Air Show will be held on November 4 and 5, 2023 at the Punta Gorda Airport and will feature the USAF Thunderbirds. [Florida International Air Show \(floridaairshow.com\)](http://floridaairshow.com) Airport operations figures were about even with the prior month. Passenger figures were roughly twenty thousand under a year ago. Fuel sales were steady. The airport's 50 destinations include some cities served year-round and others that are only seasonal. Secretary Nandam noted that FDOT is providing \$5 million for terminal expansion.

**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:

- Gilchrist Park/Harborwalk Phase II construction is complete, and the project has been transferred to the operation phase.
- Many City of Punta Gorda 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 will be moving to rented office space at the Towles Plaza on U.S. 41 in Punta Gorda by the end of October and will remain there until the offices in the Annex building are restored from hurricane damage.
- Replacement of 7.25 miles of damaged seawalls continues within PGI and BSI. The City now has a project management consultant to oversee, inspect and document the seawall replacements.
- The Bayfront Center building in Gilchrist Park, which was destroyed in the hurricane will be demolished. The citizen's committee that met to compile a report with options for replacement of the facility has suggested the city acquire the IMPAC campus buildings to replace the Bayfront Center building. Discussions will take place with the owner of the property to see if this is feasible. More to come on this.
- The City Hall renovation project is in design and engineering. The Council will review 90% plans later this month. Construction is expected to begin late 2023.
- The Laishley Park Playground project has a new contractor to install the equipment and they have 180 days to do the project.
- The MPO was looking for community stakeholders in PG to form a task force for the upcoming Safe Streets and Roads for all Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The MPO was given contact information for TEAM Punta Gorda, the PGICA, Historic district Civic Association, Burnt Store Isles Association, Burnt Store Meadows HOA, Seminole Lakes, and the PG Chamber of Commerce.
- 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 city continues to work with the consultant and Seminole Gulf Railway to move the project to construction.
- The city continues to work with FEMA on funding of Hurricane Ian repairs. City staff have most recently been performing inspections with FEMA staff on damaged sidewalks, street signs and lighting.

- The sidewalk along West William Street from the Cross Trails Plaza to the apartments west of the plaza has been completed.
- Construction continues on the replacement of the Ponce de Leon Park boardwalk and improvements to the fishing piers.
- The city has received the findings of the engineer's inspection of the Lashley Park fishing pier and sidewalk. The pier will be closed for the foreseeable future. At minimum, before it can be reopened, the decking has to be replaced along with other repairs to include pile jackets and protective coatings on the pile caps.
- The city has completed swale regrading at fifteen 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
- The channel markers damaged by the hurricane have been repaired/replaced as needed.
- Improvements to the Hounds on Henry Dog Park have been completed. New sod and fences added to accommodate an additional 5,000 square feet of space. This park continues to be one of the most popular parks in the city.

Mayor Matthews discussed a new item: 90% plans for City Hall and Freeman House. She noted that construction costs are escalating by the minute. They will be reviewed officially in November. Some City Staff will be relocating to Towles Plaza. Commissioner Constance asked about the Bayfront Center. An ad hoc citizens stakeholder committee had reviewed several options for replacement of the facility and unanimously recommended that the city investigate acquiring two of the three former IMPAC buildings (not including the one containing the Military Heritage Museum). Discussions are underway with a Fisherman's Village representative (not owner Jon Larmore). Commissioner Constance inquired about the possibility of rebuilding on the present site. Mayor Matthews stated that this would be cost prohibitive given FEMA building constraints. Commissioner Herston discussed the Boca Grande drainage project and the impacts of SB102 (Live Local Act) with a multi-family designation which would mean water quantity would change, but water quality would be unaffected. Mayor Matthews indicated that she would discuss this matter with the City Manager.

### C. [Charlotte County](#)

Commissioner Tiseo provided the County report on the following items:

#### **Various Intersection Improvements:**

- County staff have reviewed and provided comments on 60% design plans for Veterans Blvd. at Yorkshire intersection.
- 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)
- Cochran Boulevard @ Quesada Avenue – Northbound right turn on Quesada Avenue (completed)

- Murdock Circle @ US Highway 41 – Eastbound right turn lane on Murdock Circle (completed)
- Veterans Boulevard @ Cochran Boulevard intersection. 90% plans are due for review on October 13, 2023
- Veterans Boulevard @ Torrington Street intersection. 60% plans have been reviewed by Charlotte County staff and returned to FTE for updates. 90% plans are due for review on December 26, 2023
- Veterans Boulevard @ Loveland Boulevard intersection. 60% plans have been reviewed by Charlotte County staff and returned to FTE for updates. 90% plans are due for review on December 12, 2023
- 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. Design survey has started. 60% plans are due for review on October 31, 2023
- Veterans Boulevard @ Harbor Boulevard intersection. Design survey has started. 60% plans are due for review on October 17, 2023
- Veterans Boulevard @ Orlando Boulevard intersection. Design survey has started. 60% plans are due for review on January 24, 2024
- **Design Development Forecast Completion Date: December 13<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- 60% roadway, lighting, and signing and marking plans are under review.
- 60% bridge plans are under review.
- 60% utility plans are under review.

**Design Development Forecast Completion Date: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 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:**

30% design plans have been reviewed by County staff and comments are being sent back to consultant.

60% plans have been received. County staff has completed their review and returned back to the design firm.

90% plans are due on October 4, 2023

**Design Development Forecast Completion Date: December 13th, 2023**

**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:**

This project is currently in the beginning of the design phase. The survey contractor has started gathering all the site data to start the design layout.

30% plans have been received. County staff has completed their review and returned to the design firm.

60% plans are due on October 27, 2023.

**Design Development Forecast Completion Date: April 18th, 2024**

**9. Consent Agenda:**

- A. [Approval of Minutes: July 17, 2023, MPO Board Meeting](#)
- B. [Draft MPO Board and Advisory Committees Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2024.](#)
- C. [Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee \(BPAC\) Resignation and Appointment](#)

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

**10. [MPO Director's Annual Evaluation](#)**

Pursuant to the terms of Paragraph 1, of the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for Administrative Services between Charlotte County and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, the MPO Director shall be subject to an annual performance evaluation conducted by the MPO governing board. Janette Knowlton discussed documents regarding the MPO Director's second annual performance evaluation with the MPO Board Members.

Mr. Harris received high praise from the MPO Board Members regarding his performance. MPO Chair Constance noted that it was very helpful for Mr. Harris to attend local community public meetings and characterized him as available, helpful and knowledgeable.

*Commissioner Tiseo made a Motion to approve the pay for performance increase (4%) set forth by the MPO Board for the MPO Director and make it retroactive to the date the County implemented its increase. Commissioner Herston seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.*

## **11. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) REPORT**

Pam Barr stated that the FDOT Tentative Work Program was now available. FDOT's online Public Hearing would take place October 16-October 20<sup>th</sup> with the in-person meeting on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am-12 Noon at both the SWAO Office (Fort Myers) and FDOT District One Headquarters (Bartow).

### **Below are the links:**

- The new 5 Year Draft Tentative Work Program Video link - [\(2\) FDOT Five Year Work Program - YouTube](#)
- [FDOT - WP Public Hearings](#)
- [District 1 WP Public Hearings \(fdot.gov\)](#)

Pam Barr provided updates on various projects:

### **FDOT Led Discussion**

#### **A. US 41 at Olean Boulevard (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

Stephen Davis from FDOT District One Traffic Operations provided an update on “right turn on red” restrictions at the intersections of US 41 with both Olean Blvd and Harbor View Blvd.

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) REPORT**

Mayor Matthews received confirmation from Mr. Davis that right turns on red would be allowed from both lanes of westbound Harbor View Rd. Since this was the case, Commissioner Constance asked if the stop bars would be moved. Stephen Davis confirmed that this would be the case in a staggered fashion. At Olean Blvd, a right turn would only be allowed from the right lane due to the pedestrian crosswalk safety issue. Commissioner Tiseo thanked FDOT for moving forward with these needed changes.

#### **B. SR 776 at Flamingo Boulevard - (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither -FDOT/ Robert Fakhri - Charlotte County)**

Construction of the intersection signal project is programmed by FDOT for FY 2025 for \$1.4 million. Commissioner Constance noted that the County was seeking additional funding sources for the project and appreciated the current collaboration with FDOT.

#### **C. SR 776 at the Charlotte Sports Park – Intersection Improvements (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither -FDOT/ Robert Fakhri -Charlotte County)**

FDOT has the addition of turn lanes at the Charlotte Sports Park and the Charlotte County Fairgrounds programmed with \$150,000 for design in FY 2025 and \$601,000 for construction in FY 2027.

Commissioner Tiseo asked John Elias to comment on plans for the SR 776 turn lanes into the Sports Park during events. Mr. Elias stated that during the design phase, staff would be trying to develop as much vehicle stacking as possible. The double west bound SR 776 left turn lanes into the Sports Park would only be utilized with the signal or in the presence of emergency personnel during events. Otherwise, the extra lane would be striped and not utilized. Mr. Elias verified that adequate right turn lanes into both the Sports Park and the Fairgrounds would be reviewed during the design phase to allow for stacking ability to keep traffic from backing up onto SR 776. As with the earlier request for the Sunseeker intersections on US 41, Chair Constance requested that the County staff also provide a rough sketch of the planned Sports Park/Fairgrounds intersection.

**D. I-75 Possible New Interchange North of Kings Hwy Interchange - (Pam Barr/Wayne Gaither-FDOT)**

Although the North and South portions of the I-75 Master Plan are completed, the Central segment is complex and still under development with no completion timeline. Secretary Nandam stated that the I-75 Master Plan is intended to define what the future will look like. The need for a possible new interchange North of Kings Highway would be contained in the Master Plan's Central section and would consider two locations. He noted a need for consensus of all MPO Boards and other local entities. The Interchange Justification Report (IJR) would be needed, but first an analysis of the local roadway network was necessary in order to identify it. The first step was to show the need for the interchange. Commissioner Constance asked if discussion should occur now to consider additional local roadways to connect and regionalize the interchange area. Secretary Nandam stated that staff from Sarasota and DeSoto Counties had already had network discussions with Charlotte County staff.

**Joint Local and FDOT Discussion**

**A. Harbor View Road Combined Funding Strategies - (Wayne Gaither-FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

John Elias stated that during the prior week, Public Works staff met with FDOT and County Administration staff to discuss funding for this project. He observed that many moving parts were involved. There was still a funding shortfall for Phase 1 Right-of-Way (ROW), since it is very costly. A Local Area Program (LAP) agreement would be brought to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Additionally, PD&E is undergoing revision and will require an additional public hearing previously slated for January 18, 2024 but moved up to December 5, 2023. This would allow for more time for the acquisition of ROW that would be required for the LAP agreement.

Commissioner Tiseo asked Secretary Nandam to provide project funding insight. Secretary Nandam commented that cost increases were occurring statewide whether for ROW as with local funding or other components such as FDOT construction funding. Secretary Nandam stated that he needed to have a discussion with County Administration staff to determine how much the

County might contribute. Given that the roadway was a Charlotte County facility, additional federal funding must be obtained by the locals for ROW. FDOT had a solution for the construction phase (a \$6 million increase). Commissioner Constance noted that there had been discussions regarding this project for almost a decade, and locals just wanted an answer. He noted that local commercial property owners had lost out on financing due to delays regarding decisions on their frontage. He wondered how this slow pace was justifiable. The costs were on the backs of local government, but the delays were not caused by the County. He stated that ROW can't be purchased without design completion, and the pace was too slow. He emphasized that a design is needed from the engineers now. He asked if this effort could be prioritized. Secretary Nandam acknowledged that there were some previous communication gaps, especially regarding conservation easement efforts. FDOT's schedule was being compressed for the public hearing and the design completion. FDOT has done everything they can, but the need for another public hearing and FHWA approval must occur. John Elias noted that there have been delays, and it is the federal requirements that drive the timelines. Although he understood the public's impatience, another public hearing would be necessary. Commissioner Tiseo stressed that collaboration is important since the County cannot afford all the costs. He was happy that the County was partnering with FDOT. He agreed that there had been lots of difficulties, many of which were unforeseen. Secretary Nandam praised MPO Board Member comments and the great ongoing partnership. He concurred that completion that is quicker is cheaper, as currently evidenced statewide.

**Table below summarizes status of Harborview Road Improvements:**

Phase	Responsible Entity	Status	Next Steps
PD&E	FDOT	Re-Evaluation Underway	Public Hearing – <del>Jan. 18, 2024</del> Changed to December 5, 2023  Anticipated Completion by Summer 2024
Design	FDOT	Ongoing - Phase II (60%) plans	Phase IIR plans anticipated in November/December 2023  Anticipated Completion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 434965-3 HARBORVIEW ROAD FROM MELBOURNE ST TO DATE ST – Spring 2026</li> <li>• 434965-4 HARBORVIEW ROAD FROM DATE ST TO I-75 – TBD (Unfunded for CST)</li> </ul>
R/W	FDOT and Charlotte County	Ongoing	FDOT – Survey & Mapping (Completion est. Summer 2024)

			<p>County – Appraisals/Acquisition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - 3 (Deadline – Spring 2026)</li> <li>• - 4 (Ongoing)</li> </ul> <p>Prepare a LAP Agreement for the R/W acquisition – Underway</p> <p><i>(Additional funding could be necessary contingent upon project cost increases and project unknowns)</i></p>
CST	FDOT		<p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 434965-3 HARBORVIEW ROAD FROM MELBOURNE ST TO DATE ST – Funding is programmed in FY 2026 <i>(Additional funding could be necessary subject to project cost increases and project unknowns)</i></li> <li>• 434965-4 HARBORVIEW ROAD FROM DATE ST TO I-75 – TBD (Unfunded for CST) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding is being pursued to fund entire project both segments at once. Charlotte County indicated they will seek legislative appropriations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**B. US 41 (SR 45) from Kings Hwy to Peace River Bridge - 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)**

The \$150,000 previously programmed for design was deferred out of FY 2025 to FY 2029 Draft Tentative Work program. The impending opening of the Sunseeker Resort and implementation of a new traffic signal will undoubtedly impact the traffic patterns along this US 41 corridor segment from the base of the bridge to Kings Highway. The purpose of the study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of traffic operations along this corridor and determine data-backed recommendations to improve safety and traffic operational efficiencies as appropriate. Secretary Nandam indicated that the funding was deferred for Work Program balancing purposes. He also indicated that this deferral was an oversight. Given the critical need for this in-depth study at this location, FDOT District 1 will be restoring the \$150,000 programmed for this study in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

**C. Bermont Road (CR 74) Safety Discussion – (FDOT/John Elias/Robert Fakhri-Charlotte County)**

John Elias noted that some temporary solutions had been completed, and the County was still looking for funding for other intermediate and long-term solutions. Commissioner Tiseo stated that these improvements were well received by residents, and the striping has been impactful.

Commissioner Constance asked about the resurfacing of US 17, stating that he was glad to see the project listed. He wanted verification that it would cover the segment from US 41 to I-75. Laks Gurram confirmed that the entire project was in the current year of the FDOT Work Program, and the contract should be in place prior to June 30, 2024.

Mayor Matthews thanked FDOT very much for the recent emergency road repair on Olympia Avenue near the historic Old Courthouse area of downtown Punta Gorda. She applauded FDOT for doing a great job getting the roadway online quickly.

Laks Gurram commented further regarding the US 17 project. He noted that FDOT is considering extending the roadway at the I-75 exit ramp onto US 17 northbound to construct a through-lane all the way to Piper Road. This would eliminate the current traffic bottleneck. The goal is to complete this work along with the US 17 repaving. Commissioner Herston asked how FDOT repaving addresses aligning the base with manhole leaks. Secretary Nandam responded that as part of scoping, if there is a failure around manholes, it is addressed. Mayor Matthews verified that the bricking motif will not go away.

**12. FY 2023/2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/MPO Agreement Amendment**

D’Juan Harris discussed this necessary procedural amendment to the UPWP document, which is the MPO’s two-year budget document.

This amendment added \$168,258 from FY 2021/2022 funding that was not expended by the end of FY 2022. These closeout funds are being added to tasks in the current FY2023/2024 UPWP (see summary of task additions below). These revisions will also require an amendment to the MPO’s agreement to harmonize all corresponding funding changes. This amendment was reviewed by the TAC and CAC.

The revisions/amendments include:

- Adding \$36,112 in Task 1 – Administration in salaries and benefits account line from FY 2021/2022 closeout
- Adding \$20,519 in Task 2 – Data Collection, Analysis & Mapping salaries/benefits account line from FY 2021/2022 closeout
- Adding \$111,627 in Task 4 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) consultant account line from FY 2021/2022 closeout
- Moving \$39,048.14 from FY 2023 Task 2 - Data Collection, Analysis & Mapping consultant account line adding \$20,000 in salaries and benefits and \$19,048.14 in consultant line for FY 2024 Task 2 - Data Collection, Analysis & Mapping.

- Moving \$1,000 from FY 2024 Task 1 - Administration Building Lease -Rent/Storage account line and add \$500 into Subscriptions and \$500 into Repair and Maintenance (R/M) for MPO Equipment & Vehicle.

**Budget Action:**

Funding Sources	FY 2021/2022 PL Closeout	FY 2024 UPWP Adopted Allocation	FY 2024 UPWP Proposed Allocation	FY 2024 PL Budget Increase
Federal	\$ 168,258	\$601,911	\$770,169	\$168,258
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 168,258</b>	<b>\$601,911</b>	<b>\$770,169</b>	<b>\$168,258</b>

*Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to include the following updates: (1) Adding \$36,112 in Task 1 – Administration in salaries and benefits account line from FY 2021/2022 closeout, (2) Adding \$20,519 in Task 2 – Data Collection, Analysis & Mapping salaries/benefits account line from FY 2021/2022 closeout, (3) Adding \$111,627 in Task 4 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) consultant account line from FY 2021/2022 closeout, (4) Moving \$39,048.14 from FY 2023 Task 2- Data Collection, Analysis & Mapping consultant account line adding \$20,000 in salaries and benefits and \$19,048.14 in consultant line for FY 2024 Task 2- Data Collection, Analysis & Mapping, and (5) Moving \$1,000 from FY 2024 Task 1 - Administration Building Lease-Rent/Storage account line and add \$500 into Subscriptions and \$500 into R/M Equipment/Vehicle. This motion allows for transmittal of the amendments to the MPO Agreement and FDOT Cost Analysis Certification form. These revisions will allow staff to make minor non-financial changes and adjustments based upon input received from FDOT. **Mayor Matthews** seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.*

**13. Urban Area Boundary / Functional Classification Review**

Federal Functional Classification is a legislative requirement of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Functional Classification is updated every 10 years to establish a list which of candidate roads in the overall hierarchy of roadways.

The classification is used for planning, budgeting, programming, fiscal management and to evaluate Federal, State and Local highway programs. MPOs and FDOT use the process to develop the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The first step in the process is to determine the urban area boundary. The second step is the classification of roadways. There are five functional classification categories that are common to rural and urban roads: Principal Arterial, Minor Arterial, Major Collector, Minor Collector and Local.

Kyle Purvis gave a PowerPoint presentation to the MPO Board Members on the Urban Area Boundary/Functional Classification Review.

Mayor Matthews noted that the City of Punta Gorda would be working later in the week to update the City's Comprehensive Plan for submittal by November 1, 2023. She requested FDOT and MPO staff assistance in ensuring consistency between the City's Comprehensive Plan amendment and FDOT's transportation planning documents, as related to lane diets on Marion Avenue. She asked staff to coordinate this effort with Punta Gorda City Manager Greg Murray and other City staff. *(Post meeting City staff provided this information: the Transportation Element. Lane diets on Marion are mentioned in Map #60 (page 32), Table 7.14 (page 37), and Policy 7.1.7.3 (page 44).)*

Commissioner Tiseo inquired regarding realignment of classifications and the impact of funding changes. Kyle Purvis stated that under the State Transportation Block Grant Program, nothing would be lost unless an arterial or collector changed to a local road (often due to a change to a cul-de-sac). Secretary Nandam noted that the amount of County allocation does not change, and FHWA emergency funding must be for roadways in the federal network.

Commissioner Herston asked about the consultant recommendation to elevate Harbor View Road status as it might limit driveways at that location. Robert Fakhri agreed to double check with the consultant, since the County relies on FDOT access management on this County road.

#### **14. Apportionment Plan Update**

Federal laws and regulations require metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to be designated for each urban area with a population greater than 50,000 people [23 CFR 450.310(a), 23 USC 134(d)]. This designation is accomplished by agreement between the Governor and the affected units of local government. The federal rules allow the states and units of local government to largely determine the specific composition of the MPOs. In Florida, Section 339.175, Florida Statutes, provides the requirements for MPO membership composition and apportionment of the voting membership.

After each decennial census, MPOs must review the composition of their membership and submit an Apportionment Plan to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida Governor's Office that meets state and federal requirements. On May 16, 2023, the FDOT announced the start of the MPO Apportionment Process and have given MPOs 180 days to submit their apportionment plans to FDOT.

D'Juan Harris stated that there are no major changes anticipated to the Urbanized Area Population Maps during this census cycle, and this update will fall in the "Minor/No Change Category." There is a sliver of urbanized area population from Sarasota/Manatee MPO that is now encroaching into Lee County MPO's urbanized area in Boca Grande. Per coordination with the neighboring MPO Directors, this new urbanized area population will be addressed with additional verbiage in the Interlocal agreement between the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO. A draft of the revised interlocal agreement will be made available at the Joint Sarasota/Manatee and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board Meeting on January 29, 2023. The update to the Apportionment Plan is due to FDOT by the end of November 2023.



*Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to approve the “Minor / No Change” Update to the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda’s MPO Apportionment Plan. Commissioner Herston seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

#### **15. Revised Work Assignment Order / Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Scope Review**

D’Juan Harris stated that the previously approved Consultant Work Assignment Order was revised during negotiations to reduce the amount of the shall not exceed amount of consultant services to \$262,000 and include the Consulting firm’s full legal name. A marked up revised copy was included in the packet for reference. [Safe Streets and Roads for All Revised Work Assignment Order / Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Draft Scope of Services](#)

D’Juan Harris introduced Katie Shannon, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB) who provided a brief overview of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Scope of Services for MPO Board comments and consideration of approval. [Scope Presentation & Draft Schedule](#)

The action plan will be based on the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration’s Safe System 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. Recommendations may also be made based on input gained from the community in several public engagement sessions and from an established Task Force comprised of representative stakeholders from the community.

Commissioner Tiseo praised the cost savings recently negotiated by MPO staff.

*Commissioner Tiseo made a motion to approve the revisions to the Work Assignment Order and the scope of services for the development of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Commissioner Herston seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

#### **16. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **17. Staff Comments**

D’Juan Harris had provided MPO Board Members an MPO Director’s Staff Report in their meeting packets. He reported on the following non-agenda items:

#### **MPO Transition to .gov Website and E-mail Status Update**

MPO Staff initiated the process to fully transition all Website and E-Mail addresses to a .gov domain address on **July 25, 2023**, with a meeting with Charlotte County IT staff to discuss necessary steps.

1<sup>st</sup> Step – MPO Staff submitted an authorization letter on **August 1, 2023** and applied for domain address of “CCPGMPO.gov” with the [Registrar@dotgov.gov](mailto:Registrar@dotgov.gov) Final discretion of naming convention is left to CISA’s discretion.

2<sup>nd</sup> Step – Commissioner Constance as the authorizing authority validated our Organizational Structure and governmental entity status with .gov registrar on **August 9, 2023**

3<sup>rd</sup> Step - Authorization Letter and domain address request forwarded to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for final review and approval. Customer support indicated CISA approval could take one to two months. Request was approved on **October 4, 2023**. Next Step –MPO Staff will initiate transition to different domain provider (Go Daddy), and port over all website files to new CCPGMPO.gov domain address.

### **MPOAC SunTrax Tour**

This tour will be conducted in conjunction with the MPOAC Meeting on October 26, 2023, in Auburndale, Florida. MPO and City Staff will be participating.

### **Harbor View Road Public Hearing**

D’Juan Harris noted that the Harbor View Road Public Workshop has been accelerated to December 5, 2023. Details on location and time will follow.

## **18. Member Comments**

Commissioner Tiseo welcomed Secretary Nandam back from his temporary work assignment in Tallahassee. He praised Mr. Nandam for his reassuring delivery style whether it involved good or bad news.

Commissioner Deutsch raised the issue of signification at the intersections of Forrest Nelson Blvd/US 41 and Flamingo Blvd/SR 776. He also commented that County signals are now working post-hurricane, but they require motorists to endure lengthy full cycle waiting due to timing issues (example: intersection of Harbor Blvd and US 41).

## **19. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the MPO Board will be held on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119, Port Charlotte, Florida, 33948.