

TASK FORCE BRIEFING SHEET

Date: November 17, 2023

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Prepared for: Charlotte County – Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (CC-PG MPO)

Subject: **CC-PG MPO Charlotte County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan**

INTRODUCTION

In 2023, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (CC-PG MPO) secured a \$262,000 federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant to address serious transportation safety concerns in Charlotte County. These funds are being utilized to cover the cost of coordinated Vision Zero or Comprehensive Safety Action Plans, with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities and severe injuries and creating safer roads for citizens and visitors alike.

By taking a strong leadership role in supporting Vision Zero, setting ambitious goals for reducing traffic fatalities, and holding ourselves and others accountable for achieving these goals, Task Force members can help to create a culture of safety in our communities.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

How will Task Force Members Support This Plan?

Task Force members can advocate for the CC-PG MPO Comprehensive Safety Action Plan by supporting the plan development process and working as champions in the community to support traffic safety and accomplish fatality or serious injury reduction. The plan calls upon each Task Force member to meeting with the project team to accomplish the following:

1. Develop policies and programs that support transportation equity and safety in our communities.
2. Identify underserved communities with disparities in roadway safety risks, leading to more crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities.
3. Assist with the identification of prioritization criteria to identify engineering and non-engineering transportation safety countermeasures implemented as short-, mid-, or long-term actions.
4. Set the tone and guidelines for transportation infrastructure to consider health equity, by valuing all communities equally, recognizing disparities, and providing investments in safety policies, practices, and infrastructure to meet need and risk.

What Can You Expect from This Plan?

The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan offers a multi-disciplinary safety plan, providing a comprehensive framework to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. It follows the *Safe System Approach* guidance established by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Plan development tasks generally include the following:

Stakeholder and Public Engagement:

Task Force Engagement: The Task Force will convene in four meetings and serve as key stakeholders responsible for the implementation and monitoring phases of the Action Plan.

Public Engagement: Branding and communication materials will be developed to facilitate effective outreach. Four public workshops will be conducted to build awareness, gather information, and support the plan's success. Two community "pop-up events" will be organized to gain additional feedback.



Policy Review and Best Practices Guidelines

To inform Action Plan development effectively, a policy review will be conducted. This review encompasses review of six core documents, including policies, projects, and programs established by the MPO, FDOT, City of Punta Gorda, and Charlotte County. The Task Force will be fundamental in identifying existing best practices or ideas to remove potential barriers to support implementation of the Action Plan.

Safety Data Gathering and Analysis

Central to the plan's success is the gathering and analysis of safety data. This includes identifying high injury networks, collision hot spots, and collision profiles to prioritize safety countermeasures. The Action Plan will outline opportunities to implement countermeasures at specific locations, potentially encompassing various improvements such as retroreflective back plates, pedestrian refuge islands, or pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHB).

Prioritized Projects, Programs, and Strategies Work Plan

The Plan will be accompanied by a County-specific Work Plan that will provide short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommended actions. Short-term actions may focus on education or speed reductions. Mid-term actions may include Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and PHBs, intersection improvements like roundabouts, or lane repurposing. Long-term actions may involve innovative intersections, complete street planning, or transportation demand management.

Project Team & Plan Timeline

The Charlotte County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is being led by the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, led by Director, D’Juan Harris. Supporting the MPO’s effort is a consultant team contracted by the CC-PG MPO, comprised of VHB (prime), Fehr & Peers, and Valerin. The plan kicked off in October 2023 and has a target adoption date of December 2024.