



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

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2025  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING (IN PERSON)**

Robert Fakhri, Charlotte County Public Works (Chair)  
April Santos, Charlotte County (Vice Chair)  
Betty-Ann Sherer, Charlotte County Transit  
Tony Conte, Charlotte County School Board  
Don Scott, Lee County MPO  
Carl Benge, City of Punta Gorda Urban Design  
Patrick Fuller, Charlotte County Emergency Management  
Gabriel Quintas, City of North Port  
Brett White, Airport Authority

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Misty Servia, DeSoto County  
Jordan Ray, Economic Development  
Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Community Development (Excused)

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN PERSON**

Laks Gurram, MPO Director  
Wendy Scott, MPO Planner  
Bekie Leslie, MPO Administrative Services Coordinator  
Sierra Ray Scott, Administrative Support - STTAR  
Pam Barr, FDOT  
Michelle Peronto, FDOT  
Daniela Maria, City of Punta Gorda  
Adrianna Gehrke, City of Punta Gorda  
William Roll, Kimley-Horn

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

Chair Robert Fakhri called the TAC Meeting to order at 9:33 am. A roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

## **2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

## **3. Consent Agenda:**

**A. Approval of Minutes: March 5, 2025 Meeting**

**B. MPO Board Resolution Authorizing FY 2024/2025 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant Agreement**

*Tony Conte made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Betty-Ann Sherer seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

## **4. Chair's Report**

The Chair had nothing to report.

## **5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report**

Pam Barr described the State of Florida's withdrawal from Carbon Reduction Act funding and the refunding of some projects funded with carbon reduction dollars. She stated that Charlotte County will not be impacted adversely, since other funding was reallocated to cover project costs.

FDOT had provided the new FY 2026-2030 TIP snapshot on April 9, 2025.

There was a call for National Freight Funding applications, and there was a due date of May 28, 2025.

An FDOT presentation was given on Advanced Air Mobility in Florida by Michelle Peronto from District One's Congestion Management Multimodal Planning (C3MP) Office. A high-level overview was provided on Advanced Air Mobility in Florida. FDOT is the lead agency. The concept had been talked about for at least the last two legislative sessions. FDOT has developed a guidebook and created a working group, etc. Currently the project was in Phase Two which includes the provision of resources and education to communities. Workshops are forthcoming with a morning meeting for planning professionals and an afternoon session for elected officials. Phase 3 of the project is full integration. She named all of the parties involved in project development. She thought the utilities component (for charging) was the biggest challenge; however, the flight path is another huge technology piece. It was envisioned that the electric vehicle take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft would fly higher than drones and lower than aircraft. FDOT has an Advanced Air Mobility website: [Advanced Air Mobility](#) Full implementation is expected by the end of the calendar year. FDOT will not manage the program, but only set up the administrative framework for it.

Don Scott asked if there were plans for similar programs outside of the state, such as connecting to Atlanta. He also wanted to know if there were differences in regulations for drones under 55 lbs versus over 55 lbs. Ms. Peronto stated she would investigate this and get back to him. Betty-Ann Sherer asked about funding for these programs. Brett White stated that the master plan at the airport does include AAM, but funding is not yet available.

Robert Fakhri asked if the AAM programs would be public or private. Mr. White stated there is already interest from private companies but without funding sources yet, they are unable to tell.

## **6. 2025 Draft Project Priorities - FINAL**

Laks Gurram gave the presentation.

Florida Statute 339.175(8) requires every MPO must develop its annual List of Project Priorities (LOPP) based on the goals, objectives, and policies outlined in its adopted 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The LOPP plays a vital role in developing the subsequent draft of the FDOT Five-Year Work Program as well as the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These priorities provide a critical link to FDOT's work program.

Project Priorities development timeline:

- March 31, 2025: Preliminary list of project priorities applications to FDOT.
- May 19, 2025: MPO Staff will present the final list slated for adoption.
- June 30, 2025: Transmit approved list to FDOT

The project priorities include:

- Highway Projects
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Projects
- Congestion Mitigation/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) Projects
- Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Projects

MPO Staff will provide an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 List of Project Priorities. The final list will be presented at the May 19, 2025 MPO Board meeting for adoption. The prioritized list is then transmitted to FDOT for consideration of funding during development of the FY 2027 through FY 2031 Draft Tentative Work Program.

Below is a list of projects received by MPO Staff from local entities for consideration in the 2025 LOPP:

- Harbor View Road from Melbourne St to Date Street – Road Widening (ROW & CEI)
- Harbor View Road from Date St to I-75 – Road Widening (ROW & CST)
- US 41 MURT Bridge at S. Alligator Creek – (CST)
- Burnt Store Rd. from Vincent Ave to Wallaby Lane (ROW, CST)
- Emergency Vehicle Preemption Devices (CST)
- Veterans Blvd @ Atwater St - Turn Lanes (CST & CEI)
- SR 776 at Biscayne Drive –Turn lanes and Signal (PE, CST& CEI)
- SR 776 at Charlotte Sports Park. – Add Turn Lanes (PE&CST) – Revised cost

### 1. [2024 Project Priorities – Approved by MPO Board May 2024](#)

2. [2025 DRAFT Project Priorities](#)
3. [2025 TRIP Regional Project Priorities](#)

During the discussion, Betty-Ann Sherer asked about the adjustments made on SR 776 at Biscayne Drive. Mr. Gurram answered that the right turn lanes are the initial improvements and will be followed by a signalized intersection which is the goal.

***Tony Conte** made a motion to recommend the MPO Board adopt the final 2025 Project Priorities (Highway, TAP, CM/TSM and TRIP) for the upcoming FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program Cycle FY 2027 to FY 2031. **Betty-Ann Sherer** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

#### **7. FY 2025/2026 – FY 2029/2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – FINAL**

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 19, 2025 MPO Board Meeting. The attachment below is the final version of the Draft Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO TIP for 2025/2026 – FY 2029/2030.

#### [Final Draft 2025/2026 – FY 2029/2030 Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO entered an interlocal agreement with the Sarasota – Manatee MPO and Lee County MPO, formalizing and specifying regional planning projects along with timeframes 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.

Laks Gurram gave a presentation on the required document. He noted that the final FDOT snapshot had been received on April 9, 2025 and was included in the final draft TIP. Sidewalk projects were modified due to the removal of Carbon Reduction funding. FDOT had identified another funding source, so there was no impact to the projects.

The TIP has been advertised to the public. The comment period is open until the MPO Board Meeting on May 19, 2025 at 2 p.m.

***Don Scott** made a motion to recommend the MPO Board review and approve the Final Draft FY 2025/2026 through FY 2029/2030 Transportation Improvement Program. **Patrick Fuller** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

#### **8. Regional Interlocal Agreement between Heartland Regional TPO and Charlotte**

**County-Punta Gorda MPO**

The purpose of this Interlocal Agreement is to provide a structured forum for communication and coordination between the MPOs and to ensure joint regional cooperation regarding transportation planning in accordance with Section 339.175, Florida Statutes; 23 C.F.R. Part 450, Subpart C; and other applicable federal legislation.

In particular, the Agreement commits the parties to work together in good faith and with due diligence to develop joint regional transportation planning products and processes for the two MPOs in the region. An important goal is to create a regional transportation forum that identifies potential project priorities for funding through the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). This agreement strengthens regional transportation planning by ensuring that projects are strategically prioritized and aligned with federal and state regulations.

Laks Gurram has indicated that the interlocal agreement will establish a forum to discuss regional transportation projects. Some key projects that could be addressed include Kings Hwy, US 17, and Bermont Rd.

Further discussions are needed to determine a timeline for the Joint MPO Board meeting, where these projects and their regional impact can be reviewed in detail.

**[Interlocal Agreement for the Creation of a Regional Transportation Forum between the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization \(TPO\) and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\)](#)**

*Betty-Ann Sherer made a motion to recommend the MPO Board approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Creation of a Regional Transportation Forum between the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Tony Conte seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

**9. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Needs – Update**

William Roll gave the TAC Members a presentation. The Draft 2050 Needs Assessment includes input from public and various stakeholders from the County. Staff received input from three public workshops held on February 10, 11, and 12 gathered feedback from more than 50 participants to help shape the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Additionally, on April 7, 2025, MPO staff and the MPO's consultant hosted a Consensus Building Workshop with over 37 stakeholders, aiming to build consensus on key issues. William Roll noted that much good information had been received.

Additional outreach activities include a short survey and an interactive mapping exercise available on the MPO's website at [www.ccpmmpo.gov](http://www.ccpmmpo.gov). These are designed to gather further community input on the transportation network. MPO staff and the Consultant will meet with the Steering Committee to review the Needs Assessment and provide comments to support development of the draft Cost Feasible Plan. The Draft Needs Assessment projects will be presented at the May 19, 2025 MPO Board meeting for their review and approval

1. **[2050 LRTP Needs Assessment](#)**

## 2. Power Point Presentation

William Roll reviewed the recent Transportation Needs map changes. He described an alternative approach to the current model in the mid Charlotte County area, especially in light of the proposed future interchange in the Yorkshire/Raintree area of Sarasota County planned for the distant future. Mr. Roll noted that interchange spacing was a big issue given Federal and State guidelines. Additionally, the potential interchange was currently a low priority for Sarasota County in its far southern section. Therefore, Charlotte's approach would involve a collective distributor (CD) system to allow the community to take ownership of the current situation in the Veterans Blvd/Kings Hwy area approaching the Sarasota County Line. It would allow traffic to enter and exit at Veterans Blvd and Kings Highway by utilizing flowing ramps. Veterans Blvd would be severed under this CD system. The high priority capacity roadway needs map was also discussed. Both Taylor Road and CR 74 (Bermont Road) were also reviewed. A revised map would be forthcoming. High Injury Network needs would also be shown on the map. Finally, William Roll described the upcoming dates for LRTP public involvement opportunities.

During the discussion on Zemel Rd, Robert Fakhri asked about showing a capacity need previously. Mr. Roll stated that this road was placed back on the plan based on feedback received during public workshops as well as projected forecasting. Richard Lisenbee asked if there has been discussion on parallel roads to I-75, for example like Cattleman Rd by the University Town Center Mall in Sarasota. Mr. Roll explained that there may be a need for this, but it does not compete directly with the other needs that are already on the list. Laks Gurram pointed out that geographically we are limited by the river. Mr. Gurram stated that there had been a connector road (Luther Rd) planned in previous LRTPs but it did not come out as a high priority need and currently it is not cost feasible.

Mr. Fakhri asked when the cost feasible will be finalized. Mr. Roll answered that it would be available after the workshops in late May, likely near the time of the June 18<sup>th</sup> committee meetings. Mr. Gurram stated that it would likely be fully prepared by August 4<sup>th</sup> for the MPO Board meeting.

***Betty-Ann Sherer*** made a motion to recommend the MPO Board review and approve the 2050 LRTP Needs Assessment. ***Tony Conte*** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

## 10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## 11. Staff Comments

Laks Gurram discussed advisory shoulders and was an informational only item. He also reminded the committee that the next meeting would be a joint meeting. Wendy Scott stated that today was Administrative Professionals Day and to thank those who serve in these roles.

**12. Member Comments**

Betty-Ann Sherer announced that on April 2<sup>nd</sup> Transit launched the beach cruiser, which has been successful so far. They have two buses going on Saturdays with 215 riders to date. She also explained that Transit is applying for a service development grant to include possible circulator routes based on heat mapping in three locations. These locations are in Murdock, Port Charlotte, and Punta Gorda. The goal is to get a pilot program going at these three locations in order to get circulator routes started.

**13. Adjournment - (Next Joint TAC/CAC/BPAC Meeting – June 18, 2025 @  
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor Street,  
Punta Gorda FL)**

*Robert Fakhri adjourned the meeting at 10:48 am.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 am. The next regularly scheduled TAC meeting will be held as a Joint TAC/CAC/BPAC Meeting at Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. Punta Gorda, FL on June 18, 2025 at 2 p.m.