



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY - PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2026
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING**

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING (IN PERSON)

Robert Fakhri, TAC Chair, Charlotte County Public Works
Carl Benge, City of Punta Gorda Urban Design
Betty-Ann Sherer, Charlotte County Transit
Tony Conte, Charlotte County Public Schools
Glenn DiSabatino, Punta Gorda Airport Authority
DFC Lucas Tomlinson, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Shaun Cullinan, Charlotte County Community Development
Don Scott, Lee County MPO
Patrick Fuller, Charlotte County Emergency Management
Jordan Ray, Charlotte County Economic Development Office
Tommy Macy, City of Punta Gorda Public Works

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Friedman, City of North Port Planning and Zoning
Misty Servia, DeSoto County

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN PERSON

Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Director
Mark Yaxis, MPO Multimodal Planner
Bekie Leslie, MPO Administrative Assistant Supervisor
David Scarpelli, FDOT, Community Liaison
Mohamed Zayton, City of Punta Gorda Public Works
DFC Michael Davidson, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Robert Fakhri called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Members introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No public comments were received.

3. Chair's Report

Chair, Robert Fakhri, had nothing to report.

4. FDOT Report

FDOT Liaison, David Scarpelli, had nothing to report.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: Joint TAC/CAC/BPAC April 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Shaun Cullinan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. **Patrick Fuller** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

6. 2026-2031 General Planning Consultant Services/Selection Committee Recommendation

Mr. Gurram introduced the agenda item and outlined the consultant contracting process and timeline. He explained that the Request for Proposals (RFPs) was issued on March 27, 2026, and MPO staff received four proposals from prequalified consulting firms authorized to perform work in Florida. The selection committee, consisting of the TAC, CAC, and BPAC chairs and two MPO staff members, met on June 3, 2026, and determined that all four firms were equally qualified. The selection committee therefore recommended that the MPO Board extend contract offers to all four firms.

Tony Conte asked whether the protest period applied only to the participating firms or if anyone could file a dispute. Mr. Gurram clarified that the protest period is intended for firms to challenge the MPO Board's decision but noted that, because all four proposing firms would receive contract offers, he did not anticipate any disputes.

Tony Conte made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve the four professional consulting firms, allow staff to enter contract negotiations with the four firms, and authorize the MPO Chair to execute GPC contracts with the four firms. **Betty-Ann Sherer** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

7. Charlotte-Collier-Lee Consolidation Study – Status Update

Mr. Gurram introduced the agenda item and explained that the State Budget Bill, HB 5001E (General Appropriations Act), requires the MPOs of Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties to complete a Consolidation Feasibility Study for submission to the state legislature and Governor's Office by December 31, 2026. He noted that, due to the short timeline, the study is being led by the FDOT Central Office.

Mr. Gurram explained that the study is being developed as a business plan evaluating the costs, impacts, and feasibility of consolidation and alternatives: maintaining the current structure of three separate MPOs or consolidating them into a single MPO. He added that FDOT has stated it will not make decisions on behalf of the MPO Boards or eliminate local control.

The committee briefly discussed regional travel patterns and how a potential MPO consolidation would differ from the existing Joint Regional Meetings that Charlotte County holds annually with the Sarasota/Manatee MPO, Heartland Regional TPO, and Lee County MPO. This item was informational.

8. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan/Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (TDSP/CPT-HSTP)

Mr. Yaxis introduced the agenda item and explained that the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) is a five-year plan that receives minor annual updates between major revisions. He noted that MPO and Transit staff jointly prepare the plan, which is presented to the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) for approval before being submitted to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Mr. Yaxis also provided an overview of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program and reviewed trends in Transportation Disadvantaged population estimates since the previous plan was adopted. He noted that the final plan will be presented to the LCB for approval. This item was informational.

Betty-Ann Sherer, Charlotte County Transit, added that the update is intended to modernize the plan by updating its content, improving the layout, and shortening sections where appropriate to create a more readable and accessible document.

9. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

10. Staff Comments

Mr. Gurram provided staff comments, highlighting the nomination of CAC Chair Dianne Quilty and the completion of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Map, which was distributed to committee members. He also provided legislative updates, including the Governor's veto of SB 382, which contained regulations related to e-bikes.

11. Member Comments

Betty-Ann Sherer presented Charlotte County Transit's [June 2026 Data report](#).

Tony Conte noted that some schools begin again on July 16, 2026, due to their year-round school program. Mr. Conte mentioned that these schools will also have their school zone speed cameras turned on beginning on this day as well.

12. Adjournment – Next Meeting: September 16, 2026 at 9:30 am

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am.

DRAFT