



## **JOINT MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD AND LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**Burnt Store Road Presbyterian Church, Stewart Hall,  
11330 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, Florida  
Friday, February 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

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#### **Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Roll Call/Invocation**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Charlotte County Commissioner Christopher Constance.

The Lee County MPO Board roll was called by Lee County MPO staff. A quorum was present. Lee County MPO Board Members in attendance included Lee County Commissioners Cecil Pendergrass, Kevin Ruane, Raymond Sandelli, and Brian Hamman; City of Fort Myers Councilmembers Johnny Streets Jr. and Teresa Watkins Brown; Town of Fort Myers Beach Councilmember John R. King; City of Sanibel Councilmember Michael Miller; Village of Estero Mayor Katy Errington (9:42 a.m.); and City of Bonita Springs Councilmember Fred Forbes.

The Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Board roll was called by Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO staff. A quorum was present. Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Board members in attendance included Charlotte County Commissioners Christopher G. Constance, Stephen R. Deutsch, and Joseph Tiseo; Charlotte County Airport Authority Commissioner James Herston; and City of Punta Gorda Mayor Lynne Matthews.

Others in attendance included the following – John Kubler and Victoria Peters with FDOT; Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO staff D’Juan Harris, Lakshmi Gurram, Wendy Scott, Bekie Leslie, and Betty-Ann Sherer; Lee County MPO staff Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Calandra Barraco; Derek Rooney with Gray Robinson; members of the public Jerry Newmin, Silvio Estes, Dawn Caniff, John Fleming, Neil Jay Dodrill, Bob Hancik, Pastor Syl Estevez, Suzanne Fleming, Ed Morris, Linda Dosse, Eileen Dameanos, Debra Beyer, Dave Roeser, Bill and Elaine Kimber, Mary Ann Jurek, Douglas Burton, Marv Bergman, Rick Kirckhoff, John and Diane Ardolino, Chuck and Terry Mattioni, Dick Welter, Pat O’Neill, Mike Stroheck, Rob Bar, Anne Tien, Jeff Young, Christine Pfeffule, Walter Schroeder, Robert Eppich, Joseph Milano, Derek Felder, Dave Evans, Joyce Evans, Robert Fehr, Dennis McCarthy, Sam Miller, Drew Myers, Ron Mills, Patrick and Cathy Hurd, Miles Moorehake, Bob Turk, Joe Blais, William Wall, Linda and Tony Lombardi, Bob Reichert, Jay Day, Stephen Miller, Marv Kelso, Jim Jablonski, Steve Riddle, Bud Herzberg, Rick Marhis, Liz Kelly, John Gruca, Craig Williams, Manuel Soares, Sharon Mundhenke, Clarke Phyendlenke, Maggie Jones, Barbara Whelan, Jinnifer Calinda, Steven Pletz, Jay and Donna Ableidinges, Kathleen and Kevin Tyndall, Maria Metge, Stefan Pilip, David and Elizabeth Merkowitz and Barry Freedman; Charles Council with the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO Citizens’ Advisory Committee; Jana Curry with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; Andy Getch with McCormick Taylor; Mitchell Austin with the City of Punta Gorda; Persides Zambrano with the City of Cape Coral; Kristin Caruso with Scalar; Charlotte County Economic Development Director Dave Gammon; Carmen Monroy with Stantec; and Rob Cursey with Benesch.

**Pastor Syl Estevez with the First Presbyterian Church in Port Charlotte gave the invocation.**

### **Agenda Item #2 - Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

### **Agenda Item #3 - Chairs' Comments**

Chair Constance and Chair Pendergrass provided comments.

### **Agenda Item #4 - Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Chair Constance noted the public speaking time limit was three minutes per speaker. Mr. Don Scott introduced Mr. John Kubler, the acting FDOT District One Secretary. The following members of the public provided public comments on agenda items: John Fleming, Jerry Newmin, Robert Hancik, Ed Morris, Dave Roeser, Mary Ann Jurek, Joe Blais, John Gruca, Barbara Whelan, Jennifer Calinda, Kevin Tyndall, Joyce Evans, Craig Williams, and Manuel Soares. Mr. Harris noted that additional public comments were emailed to staff prior to the meeting and will be attached to the end of the minutes.

### **Agenda Item #5 - Approval of Agenda**

**Commissioner Joseph Tiseo made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Stephen Deutsch seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #6 - Review and Comment on the Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List**

Mr. Scott and Mr. D'Juan Harris provided a Power Point presentation on the Joint Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List. The presentation can be accessed at the following link (pages 2-3): [TRIP Project Priorities](#). Chair Constance commented on the sales tax advance for right-of-way purchase, appreciation for FDOT support and the RAISE Grant. He asked if there were any comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #7 - Charlotte County Economic Development Overview**

Mr. Harris introduced Mr. Dave Gammon, Charlotte County Economic Development Director, who then provided a Power Point presentation as an overview of Charlotte County Economic Development. The presentation can be accessed at the following link (pages 4-26): [Charlotte County Economic Development](#). Chair Constance asked if there were any questions. There were none. Chair Constance thanked Mr. Gammon for the presentation. Commissioner Herston commented on the Airport Authority.

### **Agenda Item #8 - Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements - Status Update**

Mr. Scott and Mr. Harris provided a Power Point presentation as a status update on the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements. The presentation can be found at the following link (pages 27-29): [Burnt Store Corridor](#). Commissioner Deutsch commented on the coordination between Lee and Charlotte Counties with regard to the completion of the Burnt Store Road project. Mayor Matthews mentioned speeding issues along the Burnt Store corridor and the need for traffic calming. Commissioner Hamman commented on Burnt Store as an evacuation route, addition of traffic light, and public comments. Chair Constance mentioned public comments, traffic light, and zero fatalities. Commissioner Tiseo commented on narrow medians on Veterans, growth, example of Marathon signal, and possible signal for safety on Burnt Store. Chair Constance asked if there were additional comments. There were none. He asked the MPO Executive Directors to bring the item back to their respective MPO Boards for additional discussion. Mr. Scott and Mr. Harris agreed.

### **Agenda Item #9 - Green Gulf Boulevard Extension**

Mr. Harris provided a Power Point presentation on the Green Gulf Boulevard Extension. The presentation can be accessed at the following link (pages 30-31): [Green Gulf Boulevard Extension](#) Mr. Harris noted questions could be directed to Charlotte County Public Works. Chair Constance asked if there were any questions. There were none. He thanked Mr. Harris for the presentation.

### **Agenda Item #10- Status of the SR 31 Projects and Staff Coordination on Future Improvements**

Mr. Scott and Mr. Harris provided a Power Point presentation on the status of the SR 31 projects. The presentation can be found at the following link (pages 32-41): [SR 31 Projects](#) Chair Constance asked about the dedicated right for each direction related to volume, right-of-way to construct, and providing additional information at March meeting. Mr. Harris said he would. Mr. Scott continued the presentation. He asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Deutsch commented on the lack of shoulders, reduction of speed limit, increased traffic due to development, crashes during daylight hours, head-on collisions, and the need to address the lack of shoulders. Mr. Scott asked if there were any additional comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #11 – Update on the I-75 Connect Studies and the Recent Transportation Budget Proposal Announcements**

Mr. Scott provided a Power Point presentation as an update on the I-75 Connect Studies for the North, Central, And South Corridors and Recent Transportation Budget Proposal Announcements. The presentation can be viewed at the following link (pages 42-64): [I-75 Connect Studies](#) Mr. Scott noted I-75 project staff will present additional information in the future, noise wall comments, FDOT offering virtual meeting for all MPOs to discuss questions and comments on all three I-75 Master Plans, SIS Plan updates, and Moving Florida Forward. Chair Constance asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Information on the MPO Activities and Schedule Related to the 2020 Census**

Mr. Scott and Mr. Harris provided a Power Point presentation on the MPO Activities and Schedule Related to the 2020 Census. The presentation can be found at the following link (pages 65-71): [MPO Activities and 2020 Census](#) Commissioner Deutsch commented on the current Charlotte County population of over 200,000, benefits of being over and under 200,000, and census updates. Chair Constance commented on regulatory, reporting, and additional funding issues. He asked if there were additional comments. There were none.

### **Agenda Item #13 - Next Meeting Date**

Chair Constance noted the joint meetings were held yearly and asked if the next meeting needed to be sooner. Ms. Bekie Leslie noted the 2024 date would be February 16. Commissioner Ruane suggested another meeting before the end of the calendar year. Chair Constance advised staff to re-evaluate in September or October if a meeting was needed sooner than February 16, 2024.

### **Agenda Item #14 - Staff Comments**

Mr. Harris thanked the staff at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church for their assistance. He also thanked the residents of the Burnt Store area for their input. Mr. Scott thanked Charlotte County – Punta Gorda MPO and Burnt Store Presbyterian Church for hosting the meeting.

### **Agenda Item #15 - Member Comments**

Councilmember Forbes commented on the Purple Heart Highway and monument being placed at the rest area in Lee County. Commissioner Deutsch added he would be at the Purple Heart meeting the following day. Mayor Matthews commented on the buildout of Punta Gorda Isles, possible future expansion of Punta Gorda city limits, and extension of left bound turn lane at Aqui Esta. Chair Constance commented on a resurfacing project that didn't include the lane extension, example of Murdock project safety issue, and need for better

response from FDOT. Commissioner Pendergrass asked if there were any closing comments from Lee County MPO Board members. There were none. Commissioner Pendergrass asked that staff follow up with additional information on a potential joint meeting at the end of the year. Commissioner Deutsch commented on progress made, slow movement of government, and appreciation for public input. Chair Constance expressed his appreciation for members of the public attending.

### **Agenda Item #16 - Public Comments**

The following members of the public provided public comments on non-agenda items: Barry Freedman, Derek Felder, and Tom Mills. Additional public comments were emailed to staff prior to the meeting and are attached to the end of these minutes. Chair Constance asked if there were additional public comments. There were none. He then provided a brief overview of MPO process and structure, FDOT involvement, funding constraints, and safety. He thanked everyone for attending.

### **Agenda Item #17 - Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed at the following link: [Joint Lee Charlotte MPO 02/17/2023](#)

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard on each of the above items. Written comments filed with the MPO will be considered. Copies of all of the above proposed documents are available by calling the Lee MPO Office at 239-244-2220 or the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Office at 941-883-3535.

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***THE MPO'S PLANNING PROCESS IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND RELATED STATUTES. ANY PERSON OR BENEFICIARY WHO BELIEVES HE/SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY OR FAMILY STATUS MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE LEE MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR CALANDRA BARRACO AT (239) 244-2220 OR BY WRITING HER AT P. O. Box 150045, CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA 33915 OR THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR WENDY W. SCOTT AT (941) 883-3535 OR BY WRITING HER AT 18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, BUILDING B, SUITE 200, PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948.***