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WRITING & DESIGN SAMPLES:

- Monthly Newsletters (In Motion)
- Public Outreach Flyers, including
- Bilingual Title VI/ADA materials
- Plain-Language Plan Summaries
- Government Executive Summary
- Social Media & Public Notice Copy

WRITING & COMMUNICATIONS

A collection of my technical and creative writing, design, and translation coordination, produced for Collier MPO's public outreach.

Authored, designed, and produced solo each month, this newsletter reaches Collier MPO's full subscriber list.

TAKE PART IN BIKE-PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN COLLIER COUNTY!

JOIN US!



The 2025 Joint Collier MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Lee MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) Public Workshop April 22nd @ 10AM!

This annual workshop is open to the public and offers a valuable opportunity for the Collier and Lee bike-ped committees to come together in an open forum to discuss current and upcoming plans, programs, and projects related to **bicycle and pedestrian transportation**. The conversation will also include regional efforts to expand trails and networks in Southwest Florida to enhance mobility and safety for all bicycle and pedestrian users in the area. All are welcome!

The Logistics:

- Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.
- Collier County Government Services Center at Heritage Bay Meeting Room, 15450 Collier Boulevard, Naples, FL 34120

For more information, visit colliermpo.org.

BECOME A COLLIER MPO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER!



Get involved in Collier County's transportation planning process by serving as a citizen member on one of Collier MPO's Advisory Committees! Your input will help guide the future of projects and plans that impact transportation for your community!

VACANCIES:

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

- Citizen representing the City of Naples
- Citizen representing Collier County District 5

Learn more at colliermpo.org/cac

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

- At-Large Member

Learn more at colliermpo.org/bpac

Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB)

- Citizens' Advocate/User (of CATConnect)
- Citizen representing the Elderly (60+)
- Citizen representing Private Transportation Industry

Learn more at colliermpo.org/lcb

Found a committee you'd like to join?

Complete the fillable [MPO Advisory Committee Application here](#) and email it to: Collier.mpo@colliercountyfl.gov

For inquiries contact Anne McLaughlin at 239-252-5884 or Anne.McLaughlin@colliercountyfl.gov

VIRTUAL
via Google Meet



MAY 6
5:30 - 6:30pm

PUBLIC WORKSHOP # 2

ALL ARE INVITED to the 2nd virtual public workshop for the Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) **BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN (BPMP) UPDATE!** This one-hour virtual session will highlight the project's progress, including milestones achieved since the first workshop. Attendees will have the opportunity to review the draft plan, hear a summary of public input received so far, and participate in interactive discussion boards to help shape the plan's final recommendations. Your voice is vital to shaping the future of biking and walking in Collier County!

AGENDA:

- Project Overview and Milestones Since the Last Public Meeting
- What We've Heard So Far
- Review of the Draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP)
- Discussion Boards
- Next Steps and Q&A

[REGISTER HERE TO ATTEND](#) | Learn more about the BPMP [here](#)

MAY 1 - MAY 31
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

GET TRAINED!

RIDE SMART FLORIDA

- S:** Say no to drinking & riding
- M:** Make yourself more visible to motorists
- A:** Always wear your helmet when you ride
- R:** Ride in control. Within legal & personal limits
- T:** Train regularly and get endorsed

SMART Courses help students demonstrate **safe motorcycle riding techniques** by negotiating commonly found street riding. The course is offered in Collier County, Osceola, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Palm Beach County, and Tampa. Learn more at ridesmartflorida.com.

MPO UPCOMING MEETINGS

Spring 2025 Schedule

- April 22 | Joint BPAC & BPCC
- April 28 | TAC/CAC
- May 7 | LCB
- May 9 | MPO Board
- May 21 | CMC



INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMITTEE?

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Inquiries: Collier.mpo@colliercountyfl.gov

COLLIER COUNTY AMENDS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ORDINANCE AMID E-BIKE CONCERNS



On April 22, 2025, the Collier County Board of County Commissioners **voted to amend the 2022 Pedestrian Safety Ordinance**, introducing new rules aimed at improving safety amid rising e-bike use.

Led by Vice Chair and former sheriff's deputy Dan Kowal, the changes give law enforcement clearer authority to manage accidents involving e-bikes and pedestrians on sidewalks and shared-use paths overseen by the county.

"State law doesn't address the difference between pedestrians and bicyclists off the road," Kowal said. "It's up to counties to regulate sidewalks and parks."

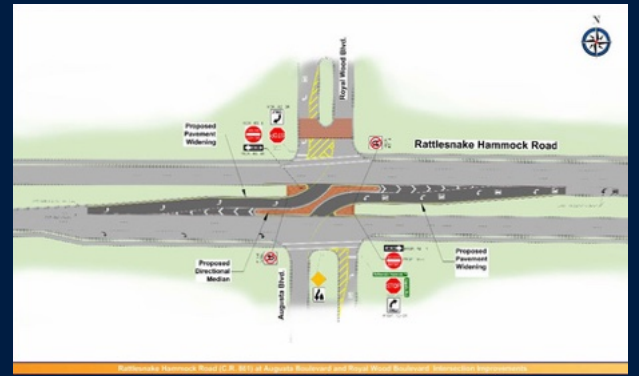
According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV), Collier County reported 259 bicycle crashes in 2024, including 5 fatalities, and 205 pedestrian incidents, with 11 fatalities. The tragic death of 14-year-old Clayton Miller in North Naples further intensified public concern and played a key role in prompting a review of the county's safety ordinance.

KEY CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE INCLUDE:

- 15 mph speed limit for all devices on sidewalks
- Class 3 e-bikes banned for riders under 16 and prohibited on sidewalks for those 16 and older except when supervising children under 16
- E-bikes must yield to pedestrians and give audible signals when passing
- Riders must stop for school buses with extended stop signs
- Bicyclists traveling against traffic must yield at intersections
- E-bikes with motors over 750 watts banned from sidewalks and shared paths

The county plans a grace period for warnings before enforcement begins, along with public outreach to educate residents.

Read the Ordinance here: [ORDINANCE 2025-22](#)



(Image from My Collier Newsletter)

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED FOR RATTLESNAKE HAMMOCK ROAD MEDIAN

Collier County Transportation Management Services Department is proposing safety improvements at the intersection of Rattlesnake Hammock Rd. and Augusta Blvd./Royal Wood Blvd. in East Naples. The current median opening allows unrestricted left turns from both side streets, creating safety concerns on the heavily traveled six-lane road.

To reduce conflict points and improve traffic flow, the proposed changes would restrict left turns from Augusta and Royal Wood Blvds. onto Rattlesnake Hammock, allowing right turns only. Left turns from Rattlesnake Hammock onto the side streets would still be permitted.

The project also includes pavement work, new curbs and gutters, updated signage, and refreshed lane markings. Estimated at \$800,000, construction could begin as early as this summer, pending approval by the Board of County Commissioners.



Speaking of Safety...

Click It or Ticket: As you head out around the Memorial Day holiday, you'll likely see more law enforcement on the roads as part of The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety "Click it or Ticket" campaign, reminding drivers and their passengers the importance of buckling up and the legal consequences for not wearing a seat belt, including fines.

The national high-visibility seat belt enforcement effort, which coincides with the Memorial Day holiday, runs May 19 to June 1, 2025. Learn more at [NHTSA's Click or Ticket webpage](#).

MPO UPCOMING MEETINGS

Spring/Summer 2025 Schedule

- May 19 | TAC/CAC
- June 13 | MPO Board
- July 16 | CMC
- August 19 | BPAC



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SUMMER BEAUTY STARTS ON THE GROUND

KEEP ROADS LITTER-FREE
IN COLLIER COUNTY!

A common topic of discussion at the Collier MPO Board meetings has been the Board's desire to find sustainable solutions to address the overwhelming amount of litter along I-75 and local roads in Collier County.

At the June 13, 2025, MPO Board meeting, FDOT Southwest Area Office Director, Wayne Gaither, said that FDOT had been tracking litter in Collier County, and that in April, FDOT collected 35 tons of trash from arterial roads and 13 tons along I-75.

At the May 9, 2025 MPO Board meeting, former District 1 Secretary L.K. Nandam, noted that while FDOT cleans up litter along I-75 three times a week, the sheer volume of trash dumped along roads and interstates makes it difficult to keep up. He emphasized that the money spent on continuous litter removal could be better allocated to vital transportation projects.

Discussions have focused on ways we can all do our part to tackle roadside litter and keep Collier County's highways and roads clean. From long-term programs to simple daily habits, every effort makes a difference.

One thing is clear. Keeping our roads clean takes a community-wide effort. There are plenty of ways you can make a difference:

Ways to Keep Collier County's Roads Litter-Free

- [Adopt-a-Highway](#) Take care of a stretch of road & keep it clean.
- Local involvement. Contact the [Collier County Road, Bridge & Stormwater Maintenance Division](#) at (239) 252-8924 or RoadMaintenance@colliercountyfl.gov to learn more.

It's the Little Things that Count...

- Throw Trash Where It Belongs. Use trash bins and recycling stations instead of littering.
- Volunteer to Make a Difference. Join a local cleanup event and help remove roadside litter.
- Support Education Outreach. Help spread the message about responsible waste disposal.
- Secure Your Load. Make sure nothing can fall from your vehicle onto the road before you start your trip.

Every small action adds up—let's work together to keep Collier County's roads beautiful!

CAT'S \$30 SUMMER PAW PASS AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS!



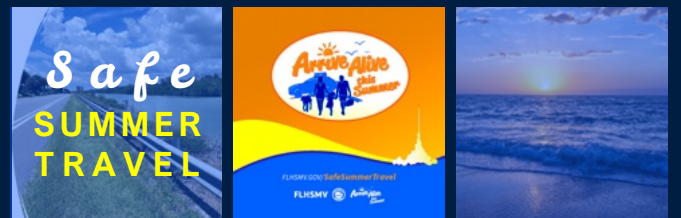
CAT's Summer Paw Pass is available for purchase by students of all ages with a school ID for \$30 for unlimited rides on CAT from June 1 through August 31, 2025!

Passes can be purchased on the **Transit app** (which can be downloaded via ridecat.com/rider-info/mobile-app, the App Store, Google Play Store), as well as **in-person** at:

- **Intermodal Transfer Station Collier County Government Complex**, 3355 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112
- **Collier Area Transit Facility**, 8300 Radio Rd, Naples, FL 34104

Students can board CAT buses with a QR code on their mobile devices as their summer bus pass.

Learn more at ridecat.com



The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' (FLHSMV) Division of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) is charged with providing highway safety throughout the state. FLHSMV is the state agency responsible for collecting, maintaining and reporting on Florida's official crash, traffic citation and driver & vehicle data. In collaboration with its various partners, the FHP leads and implements the state's traffic safety and education initiatives through participation in numerous national and state education and enforcement campaigns.

Due to its geography, increasing population and thriving tourism industry, the state of Florida consistently ranks as one of the highest traffic fatality states in the nation. Arrive Alive is the first statewide data-driven traffic safety initiative that unifies all of Florida's public safety agencies and partners, leveraging a longstanding tradition of collaboration.

Learn more at flhsmv.gov

MPO UPCOMING MEETINGS

Summer 2025 Schedule

- August 19 | BPAC
- August 25 | TAC/CAC
- September 10 | LCB
- September 12 | MPO



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Inquiries: Collier.mpo@colliercountyfl.gov

My goal in creating public outreach materials is to combine visual appeal with inviting language.

MARCH 4, 2026 | 1:30 PM

JOIN US!

ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

**FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED**



Calling All Paratransit Community!

We want to hear from you!

The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB) is a committee dedicated to you.

Attend the LCB's Annual Public Workshop and tell us how the Collier County Paratransit system is working for you!

When


March 4, 2026 | 1:30PM

Where

Collier County Government Center
Building F
IT Training Room, 5th Floor
3299 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 34112

Questions?

collier.mpo@collier.gov
239-252-5814

**To learn
more, go to**  **colliermpo.org**



Coordinated translation and reviewed for accuracy to meet Title VI/ADA bilingual outreach requirements.

4 de marzo de 2026 | 1:30 PM

¡Únase a nosotros!

Taller público anual

Para personas con dificultades de transporte



Un llamamiento a toda la comunidad de transporte adaptado.

¡Queremos saber tu opinión!

La Junta Coordinadora Local para Personas con Dificultades de Transporte (LCB) es un comité dedicado a usted.

¡Asista al taller público anual de LCB y cuéntenos cómo funciona para usted el sistema de transporte adaptado del condado de Collier!

Cuando

4 de marzo de 2026 | 1:30PM

Dónde

Edificio F del Centro Gubernamental del Condado de Collier
Sala de capacitación de TI, 5.º piso
3299 Tamiami Trail Este
Naples, Florida 34112

¿Preguntas?

collier.mpo@collier.gov
239-252-5814

Para obtener más información, visite colliermpo.org.



Condensed three concurrent county plans, the LRTP, BPMP, and SS4A, into a single page, at the agency's request.

HELP SHAPE COLLIER COUNTY'S FUTURE!

Three plans. One page. Your voice matters in all of them.

THE 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)

The Collier MPO, in collaboration with Jacobs Engineering, is updating the 2050 LRTP, a roadmap for transportation in Collier County over the next 25 years. Explore proposed roadway projects, leave feedback, and suggest new ideas using the interactive dashboard. Take the LRTP Survey.

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN (BPMP) UPDATE

The BPMP aims to build a safe, comprehensive bike and pedestrian network across Collier County, to be incorporated into the 2050 LRTP. Take the BPMP Update Survey and tell us what you want to see.

SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A)

The Safety Action Plan supports the MPO's and FDOT's Vision Zero goals, a framework to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries for all road users. It will also be incorporated into the 2050 LRTP.

Learn more and share feedback at colliermpo.org



This meeting announcement, written to fulfill federal public involvement requirements for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), helped drive the most participants in ten years.

PARTICIPATE IN THE COLLIER MPO'S VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN!

 Wednesday, October 29, 2025 | 5–6PM

The Collier MPO is holding a virtual public meeting to help shape the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) —Your input is essential!

 REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/2050LRTP-RegisterHere>

The LRTP is a federally required planning document that guides transportation projects and priorities throughout Collier County, including Naples, Marco Island, and Everglades City. Updated every five years, it ensures the County remains eligible for federal transportation funding while guiding investments that improve mobility, safety, access, and quality of life for residents and visitors.

The 2050 LRTP will incorporate other key MPO plans, including the Congestion Management Process, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Safety Action Plan, and Transit Development Plan. Developed in collaboration with Jacobs Engineering, this update will help identify future transportation needs and prioritize projects for the Transportation Improvement Program.

MEETING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Overview of the 2050 LRTP and why it matters
- How to review the draft plan
- Ways to participate via surveys and public comment
- Ways to share your feedback leading up to and during the December 11, 2025 MPO Board meeting

 Explore the Draft Roadway Cost Feasible Projects and share your feedback using our interactive map survey: <https://bit.ly/2050LRTPMap>

Your insights can make a difference. Help us build a safe, efficient transportation network for the future of Collier County!

 Register now! <https://bit.ly/2050LRTP-RegisterHere>

At the MPO's request, Collier County District 3 Commissioner Burt Saunders featured this Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) outreach in his newsletter. The post generated two applications, filling both the District 3 seat and an additional CAC At-Large vacancy.

Become a Citizens Advisory Committee Member. Your Voice Can Shape Collier County's Future!

The Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the transportation planning organization responsible for coordinating transportation planning and project prioritization for Collier County.

The MPO is seeking a representative from District 3 to serve on its Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC plays a key role in bringing community perspectives into the transportation planning process. Committee members review proposed plans, projects, and funding priorities, and provide recommendations to the MPO Board. Members represent specific geographic areas, as well as disabled and minority communities.

The CAC meets monthly on the 4th Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Collier County Transportation Management Services Building, South Conference Room 2885 South Horseshoe Drive, Naples, FL 34104
(No meetings in June or July.)

Residents from District 3 interested in contributing to the development of Collier County's transportation system are encouraged to apply. This is an opportunity to ensure District 3's needs and priorities are reflected in transportation planning and decision-making!

To learn more and to apply, go to: <https://colliermopo.org/cac>

Questions?

Contact: collier.mpo@collier.gov or call 239-252-5814

Drafted from my own live notes and meeting recording, distilling hours of unscripted public testimony into a clear, accurate record.

**MEETING MINUTES
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD
FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**Collier County Government Center
Admin Building F, IT Training Room, 5th Floor
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112
March 4, 2026 | 1:30 p.m. Annual Public Workshop**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pernas called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Ms. Miceli called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Members Present

Tony Pernas, MPO Board Member, Everglades City, *Chair*
Brett Nelson, Children at Risk
Charles Lascari, Rep. Disabled, *Vice-Chair starting at item 5.A.*
Michael Stahler, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Patti Warren, Fla. Dept. of Edu./Div. of Vocational Rehab Services
Sarah Gualco, Area Agency on Aging SWFL-FL Dept. of Elder Affairs
Victoria Upthegrove, Florida Dept. of Transportation

Members Absent

Carmen Henry, Southwest Florida Regional Workforce Development Board
Cheryl Burnham, Florida Association for Community Action
Idela Hernandez, Rep. Citizens Advocate/User or Non-User
John Lambcke, Collier Schools Transportation Director
Julia Manning, Local Medical Community
Michael Stahler, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Leah Watson, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Oscar Gomez, Veterans Services
Tabitha Larrauri, Fla. Dept. of Children and Family Services

MPO Staff

Carmen Monroy, Executive Director
Sean Kingston, Planner III
Dusty Hansen, Planner II
Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

Others Present

Omar De Leon, Public Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit
Ellen Sheffey, Interim Director, Collier County Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Division
Mari Maldonado, Paratransit Manager, Collier Area Transit
Jacob Stauffer, Collier Area Transit
Elena Ortiz Rosado, Collier County Manager Office
Yash Nagal, Benesch
Fred Saunders, Public
Pauline Gaynair, Public
Paula Leighton, Public
Diane Gunderman, Public

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pernas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Gualco moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Stahler seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON LOCAL TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) PROGRAM AND PROCESS

A. Public Comments on Local TD Program and Process

Participants expressed their gratitude for the service and praised CAT’s drivers, staff, and clean vehicles, but raised consistent concerns about perceived software issues, routing, and communication. Riders described long and unpredictable pick-up windows, GPS errors that misidentify addresses, missed notifications, and routing that causes backtracking and lengthy trips, sometimes leading them to limit travel or avoid using the service for medical appointments. They also noted drivers relying on personal GPS, possible instances of drivers avoiding trips, and a lack of clear guidance on how to use the system. Booking challenges included denied trip combinations, excessively early pick-ups, late arrivals, and multi-hour waits.

CAT staff acknowledged the routing complexity and said they would continue to look for ways to improve the service. Several riders stressed that they believe the core issue is the software, not the employees, and agreed that looking into other software systems could be beneficial.

B. Member Comments on Local TD Program and Process

Mr. Lascari said he appreciates CAT’s drivers and staff but finds the routing system inefficient, with long, indirect trips, limited pickup options, and inaccurate pickup and drop-off times. Some rides have taken up to four hours. He spoke with CAT IT about the software vendor and emphasized involving riders in improving the system.

A group discussion followed on the routing software and upcoming contract renewal. **Mr. DeLeon**

said CAT is exploring alternatives but must follow a formal procurement process; the current five-year contract is up for renewal, and CAT has consulted other agencies using the same vendor. Riders questioned why alternatives weren't reviewed sooner.

Mr. Nelson stressed the need for rider feedback and data. **Mr. Lascari** said he is encouraged by staff outreach, though he could not secure a paratransit ride to the meeting. Staff noted earlier driver shortages affected performance.

Ms. Monroy recommended CAT review the data and provide an update at the next meeting in May.

C. Annual TD Program LCB Training

Ms. Hansen provided a presentation regarding the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged program and the roles of the LCB, the MPO, and the Community Transportation Coordinator. which can be viewed in the March 4, 2026 LCB Public Annual Workshop Agenda.

4. ADJOURNMENT

*No further business being conducted, **Chair Pernas** adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.*

Prepared for the MPO Board, composed of nine elected county and city officials, to support an appointment decision, condensing a candidate's full background into one page.

4/11/2025

Item # 9.B

ID# 2025-1168

Executive Summary

Approve a New Appointment to the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged as a Citizens' Advocate

OBJECTIVE: For the Board to approve the appointment of a new member to the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB) as a Citizens' Advocate/User or Non-User (of the CATConnect system).

CONSIDERATIONS: As a disability professional and the Executive Director of the Employment Network of Southwest Florida, Idela Hernandez has been empowering individuals with disabilities to secure sustainable employment and achieve financial independence, while also working to advance workforce inclusion, for over two decades.

She holds a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Kentucky and is a certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor, specializing in benefits advisement and vocational rehabilitation.

She works with several local and state community organizations, including Collaboratory, State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation, ROOF, STARability, Collier County Public Schools, Collier Autism, The Light House, Division of The Blind Services, and Leehealth. Staff believes Ms. Hernandez will bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding to the LCB.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Hernandez to the LCB for a three-year term.

PREPARED BY: Suzanne Miceli, Operations Support Specialist II

ATTACHMENTS:

1. IdelaHernandez - LCB AppointmentApplication
2. Current LCB Roster as of March 3, 2025