

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY – PUNTA GORDA**

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

MINUTES OF THE MPO BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022

BURNT STORE ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STEWART HALL

11330 BURNT STORE ROAD

PUNTA GORDA, FL 33955

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Commissioner Christopher G. Constance,** MD, Charlotte County Commissioner, MPO Chair

**Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch,** Charlotte County Commissioner, MPO Vice Chair

**Commissioner Joseph Tiseo,** Charlotte County Commissioner

**Commissioner James Herston**, Charlotte County Airport Authority

**Mayor Lynne Matthews**, Punta Gorda City Council

**ADVISORY**

**L.K. Nandam**, FDOT District One Secretary

**STAFF PRESENT**

D’Juan Harris, MPO Director

Lakshmi N. Gurram, MPO Principal Planner

Betty-Ann Sherer, MPO Planner

Wendy Scott, MPO Planner

Stacy Bjordahl, Charlotte Assistant County Attorney (MPO Legal Services)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Wayne Gaither, FDOT Southwest Area Office

Tanya Merkle, FDOT

Victoria Peters, FDOT

Jessica White, FDOT

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Betsy Calvert, *Sun-Herald*

John Majka, Friends of Fort Myers Shores

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

MPO Chair Constance called the meeting to order at 11:48 p.m. (following the Joint MPO Board Meeting with the Lee County MPO). The roll call was taken, and all board members were present.

**2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

**3. 2022 Safety Performance Measures Targets**

D’Juan Harris noted that MPOs are required annually to adopt Safety Performance Measure Targets for tracking progress towards the Statewide/MPO targets for each of the transportation performance measures. This action meets Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements.

FHWA has established five national Safety Measures which all State Departments of Transportation and MPOs must address. Unlike other performance measures applicable only to the National Highway System (NHS), the Safety Performance Measures apply to all public roads. FHWA’S five Safety Performance Measures are:

1. Number of Fatalities

2. Number of Serious Injuries

3. Fatality Rate per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

4. Serious Injuries per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

5. Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

The MPO Board last adopted the FDOT’s “Vision Zero” targets (goal of no fatalities or injuries) for all five of the Safety Performance Measures at the December 7, 2020 meeting. The MPO has until February 27, 2022 to accept the FDOT targets for 2022 or develop its own targets.

D’Juan Harris provided comparison data on both the Charlotte County and Statewide Five-Year Rolling Averages for each of the five FHWA Safety Performance Measures. Commissioner Deutsch asked Mr. Harris to give insight on the shifting variables. Mr. Harris noted that FDOT has done a great job through deliberate strategic design strategy by promoting median modification and roundabout projects where feasible. These types of projects are key to lowering likelihood of severity of injury in crashes by reducing conflict points.

Secretary Nandam confirmed that accident severity has been reduced. He noted that even though fatalities are going up, serious injuries are going down. Commissioner Constance observed that from the medical side, airbags and seatbelts were commonplace. He stated that perhaps high speed was contributing to deaths. He was pleased that Charlotte’s numbers were

better than the Statewide figures. Commissioner Tiseo mentioned the unfortunate, recent passage of two teenagers in Charlotte County in vehicular accidents.

***MPO Board Members*** *agreed unanimously to approve and adopt FDOT’S 2022 Safety Performance Measures Targets.*

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**5. Staff Comments**

There were no staff comments.

**6. Member Comments**

There were none.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the MPO Board will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Building B, Room #119, Port Charlotte, Florida.