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April 5, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Draft FY2011/12 - FY2015/16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Public Comment Period Announced**

The Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is announcing the opening of a 30-day public comment period for the Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2011/12 through FY2015/16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MPO Board will be asked to adopt the FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP with consideration of all the comments received during the public comment period. A public hearing will be held on the FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP in conjunction with the MPO's regular meeting on May 13 at 9 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioners chambers, third floor, Collier County Government Center, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples.

Pursuant to the MPO's Public Involvement/Public Participation Plan, the draft FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP is made available for a 30-day public comment period. The public comment period for this Draft FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP began on April 5 and will end on May 5, 2011. The Draft FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP is posted on the MPO's Web site at www.colliermpo.net. To access the Draft TIP on this Web site, click on "Public Documents", and then scroll down to the "Draft FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)".

The Draft FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP will also be on display at the customer service desks at the sites listed below:

- Collier County Government Center North
2335 Orange Blossom Drive
Naples
- Collier County Transportation Division
2885 S. Horseshoe Drive
Naples
- Naples City Hall
735 8th Street South
Naples
- Everglades City Hall
102 Copeland Avenue N.
Everglades City

-more-

- Marco Island City Hall
50 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island
- Southwest Florida Works (formerly Career & Services Center)
750 S. 5th Street
Immokalee
- All Collier County Public Libraries

Each year, the MPO is required to develop a financially feasible TIP that includes all items that are to be funded with state and federal dollars over the next five years. The MPO's endorsement of this Draft FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP is needed so that all projects within the TIP might be recognized and qualify for all federal and state funds that become available. This Draft FY 2011/12 through FY2015/16 TIP includes projects for highways, aviation, transit, the Transportation Disadvantaged Program, Transportation Enhancement projects, and transportation planning projects. Highway projects that are included in the TIP must be derived from the MPO's *Long Range Transportation Plan*.

In addition to FDOT's Five-Year Work Program, a TIP is required to include the Capital Improvement Programs for Collier County and the municipalities of Naples, Marco Island, and Everglades City for informational purposes only.

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 that he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with FDOT District One Title VI Coordinator Ms. Robin Parrish at 863-519-2675 or by writing Ms. Parrish at Post Office Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831.

For more information call the Interim MPO Director, Lorraine Lantz at 239-252-8192.

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[News Media: If you have any questions, please contact Community Liaison Connie Deane at 239-252-8192 or 8365.]