

**MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY MPO BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN
COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Held on May 26, 2015

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee was held on May 26, 2015 at the Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A, 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers.

Those in attendance included:

Andy Getch	LCDOT
Anna Bielawska	LeeTran
Avelino Cancel	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Council
Diane Holm	Injury Prevention Council
Isobel Hitchcock	Member - At – Large
Jason Lamey	LC Parks
Jennifer Hagen	City of Bonita Springs
Linda Carter	CAC
Lee Wailer	Lee County Parks
Mark Tesoro	Lee Memorial
Ryan Shute	Member At-Large
Sally Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Stephen Jansen	CTST
Steve Chupack	Member At-Large

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; D’Juan Harris with FDOT; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; Officer John Kulko with CCPD; Dawn Huff and Nancy Crocker with Lee County School District; Rob Phelan with LCDOT; Lisa Indovino with All Children’s Hospital.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Linda Carter called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2015 BPC MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Gogoi called out changes to the minutes including the addition of Andy Getch and Soloane Jackson under the list of attendees.

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO APPROVE THE APRIL 21, 2015 BPC MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MS. HAGEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #5– STATUS UPDATE ON THE FINAL DESIGN PLANS FOR ESTERO BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Phelan provided a status update on the Estero Boulevard improvements. He stated that construction on the first segment would begin soon and that it would take 14 months to complete. The ROW there is 50' and the design calls for 9' wide sidewalks so as to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. Sharrows will be marked on the pavement. The Town had asked for a 2' wide landscaping strip from the back of the curb for its aesthetic appeal but that will compromise the sidewalk width. There were objections to the inclusion of the landscaping strip from committee members as that will cause sight obstruction and compromise safety. Storm surge may wipe out the landscaping. It was also reported that there were encroachments issues on the segment to the south that they were trying to resolve.

AGENDA ITEM #2– DISCUSSION ON COST INCREASES OF SR 80 SHARED USE PATH PROJECT

Mr. Gogoi reported on the cost increases of the SR 80 Shared Use Path. He stated that committed funds in the Work Program is \$1.56 Million. The costs have now gone up to \$3.5 Million. In addition, the MPO asked FDOT to transfer \$800,000 of the original funds to meet the shortfall of the Leeland Heights Blvd. Construction would have to be staged, and that Phase I would be from Buckingham Road to Tropic Avenue. A Phase II construction for \$1.4 Million could be submitted as a bike ped priority this year, and a third phase could be submitted in a later year.

The committee expressed their desire to pursue the construction of a shared use path, and left it to staff to work with FDOT to stage the construction as it sees best.

AGENDA ITEM #3– REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MULTIMODAL BOX FUND PRIORITIES

Mr. Gogoi provided an overview of the staff recommended priorities for the multimodal box fund priorities. He suggested that the committee consider combining the two Veterans Parkway Shared Use Path project as one project.

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO COMBINE THE TWO VETERANS PARKWAY PROJECTS INTO ONE PROJECT AND APPROVE THE PRIORITIES AS SUGGESTED BY STAFF. SECONDED BY MR. TESORO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LEE MPO TA PRIORITIES

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO APPROVE THE PRIORITIES AS SUGGESTED BY STAFF. SECONDED BY MR. JANSEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – DISCUSSION ON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS IN THE MPO’S LRTP UPDATE

Mr. Scott gave a short overview of the bridges that have been identified in the CIP and included in the presentations of the 2040 Long Range Plan development of. The bridges include Big Carlos Pass Bridge, Big Hickory Pass Bridge, Little Carlos Pass Bridge, New Pass Bridge, Cape Coral Bridge (westbound span), Little Pine Island Pass Bridge, and SR 80 at Billy’s Creek

AGENDA ITEM #7 – DISCUSSION ON GABBY’ LAW FOR STUDENT SAFETY

Ms. Huff gave an overview of Gabby’s law for student safety and the changes to the Florida hazardous walking condition criteria resulting from it. She also explained the current Lee County School District process in identifying hazardous walking conditions where a roadway is evaluated based on complaints from parents. The changes now do not require a complaint from parents to start the process and that school district staff could evaluate a roadway any time. It was decided that the school district ask the legal department to analyze the new requirements and report back to the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #7 – STAFF UPDATE ON THE TIGER GRANT PROJECT AND OTHER ONGOING MPO PROJECTS

Mr. Scott provided an update on the ongoing TIGER funded Lee County Complete Streets Initiative project. Before and after construction bike ped data would be collected using Miovision cameras as part of the performance measure requirement.

Mr. Gogoi reported that staff had contacted Eco Counter to review bike ped counters and reported on pneumatic tube and Pyro Box counters and their pricing and how they work. The MPO was looking into purchasing them, and they could be used for monitoring bike ped traffic which could be used in the Mayors Challenge.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #8 – PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Getch reported that the County’s BPAC will be discussing the point scoring system for bike ped projects, and that they will discuss the hazardous walking conditions criteria.

Ms. Huff reported that that there were no wellness policy of students but there was a parent guide for code of conduct for students. It includes the helmet law that requires children below 16 years to wear helmets. Some schools are enforcing the helmet law by calling parents of students who rode their bikes to school without a helmet and asking them to bring a helmet. Otherwise the student would not be allowed to ride back home. She also reported that legally they cannot cite students/students. There was a suggestion

from a member of the public that schools should write letters to parents and asking them to make sure their children wore helmets. Ms. Huff stated she would investigate that.

Mr. Cancel reported that the City of Fort Myers installed bike lanes on one side of 2nd Street from Fowler to Seaboard. The City also installed sidewalks on Van Buren, Marsh Avenue and Winkler Avenue.

Officer Kulko reported that a summer camp for children will be held in June or July at Oasis School with a focus on bicycle pedestrian safety.

Ms. Letourneau reported that while Gabby's Law passed Passidomo's bill on bike ped safety did not.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Officer Kulko reported that as part of the HVE grant the Cape PD made 700 contacts both at schools, and at bike zones in the City. In reference to the earlier discussion on making it mandatory for school kids to wear a helmet while riding their bikes to school, he informed the committee that if the student is ticketed for not wearing a helmet, he will have to pay a \$59 dollar fine, and his driver's license will be suspended if he does not pay the fine.

Ms. Letourneau reported on the status of HB 231 on bike bed safety, and announced a ride on May 1st. Florida Bicycle Association will be coming to town to give a special award to Dan Moser.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – LEETRAN REPORT

None

AGENDA ITEM #11 – FDOT REPORT

Mr. Harris reported that FDOT would be installing a Walk Your Bike Imprint on the pavement at the base of the Matanzas Pass Bridge for bicyclists using the sidewalk on the east side of the bridge. They will use the same rectangular shaped imprint used in one of the Sarasota bridges.

AGENDA ITEM #12 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

AGENDA ITEM #13 – INFORMATION AND DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.