

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

Held on March 25, 2014

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee was held on March 25, 2014 at the Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A, 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers.

Those in attendance included:

Andy Getch	LCDOT
Dawn Huff	Lee County School District
Elisa Yanes	Lee County School District
Mark Tesoro	Lee Memorial Health System
Syndi Bultman	Lee Memorial Health System
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Council
Jason Lamey	LC Parks and Rec
Dru Doyle	Member-At-Large
Jay Anderson	CTST
Stephanie Smith	City of Cape Coral
Jeff Davis	City of Bonita Springs
Avelino Cancel	City of Fort Myers
Josh Overmyer	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Wayne Gaither	LeeTran
Linda Carter	CAC
Simone Behr	Visitors Convention Bureau
Stacy Revay	Collier County Growth Management Division

Others in attendance included Don Scott and Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO, Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee, Russ Muller with FDOT, Ned Baier with Jacobs, Lee Waller with Parks and Recreation, Sarah Layman with LeeTran, Masood Mirza with the City of Cape Coral, Michael Tisch with Atkins, and Lt. Greg Bueno with FHP.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Carter called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. Mr. Gogoi reported that a quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 28, 2014 BPCC MEETING MINUTES

MOTION BY MR. MOSER TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 28, 2014 BPCC MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR GAITHER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 BPCC MEETING MINUTES

MOTION BY MS. HUFF TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 BPCC MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR. DAVIS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #3 – RECOMMENDATION OF PRELIMINARY BIYCLE PEDESTRIAN PROJECT PRIORITIES

Mr. Gogoi presented the evaluation results of the bicycle pedestrian projects that was submitted this year. He also presented the staff recommended priorities and reported that the top 4 priorities were projects which have either a design phase funded or an unfunded project from last year. Priority 4 was a group of 4 unfunded projects from last year where the drainage costs was more than 50% of total costs and its high priority and inclusion in the project list would be based on how the committee chose to act on agenda item 7. Agenda item was about whether projects with excessive drainage costs should be funded if they happen to be located in older neighborhoods without sidewalks. The committee agreed that such projects should be considered for funding as long as the applicant paid for the excess in drainage costs, and that the evaluation criteria tweaked accordingly. The committee also directed staff to define parks and their scoring methodology.

MOTION BY MR. MOSER TO RECOMMEND PRELIMINARY BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PROJECT PRIORITIES AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF FOR THOSE PROJECTS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE OR UNFUNDED FROM LAST YEAR FOLLOWED BY THE NEW PROJECTS FROM THIS YEAR IN THE ORDER CONSISTENT WITH THE STAFF EVALUATED RANKINGS. MOTION ALSO CALLED FOR STAFF TO ACCOMMODATE A NEW CRITERION FOR PROJECTS WITH EXCESSIVE DRAINAGE COSTS AND TO REDEFINE THE SCORING METHODOLOGY FOR THE PARKS CRITERION. SECONDED BY MS. YOUNG. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – FHP BICYCLE DETAIL OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

Lt. Bueno reported that one of FHP's mission is to reduce traffic crashes. Reported that they use traffic crashes. Crashes are addressed through education by officers at high schools, in community fairs and events, and during daily patrols. Crashes are also reduced through traffic enforcement. He cited the example of the intersection of I 75 and Palm Beach Boulevard where there was a spike in crashes a couple of years ago and were able to get crashes down significantly by working with FDOT and lowering speed limit in the construction zone. FHP investigated 28 bicycle crashes last year and that motorists were at fault in 19 of those crashes. The majority of those 19 violations were as a result of motorists encroaching the crosswalk and looking left only while taking a

right and hitting a pedestrian or bicyclist. He announced that a Pedestrian Education and Developing Safety (PEDS) Event was being held on March 26th to go looking for those violations where a pedestrian, cyclist or motorist may be at fault. If a vehicle encroaches the crosswalk it is a violation. The statutes do not allow a pedestrian to cross a roadway mid-block between adjacent signalized intersections. The roads that were being targeted for PEDS were US 41 and Palm Beach Boulevard as they were the corridors with increased crashes. Discussion ensued on media reporting and coverage on crash events and crash statistics, and the need to cite one consistent number in overall Lee County crashes and crash source when speaking to the media.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – COMMITTEE INPUT ON LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS

Mr. Lamey presented three Lee County Parks and Recreation involving the proposed Pine Island Park, the proposed Daniels Parkway South Trailhead along J.Y. Linear Park and a proposed landscaping project along the J.Y. Linear Park from Crystal Drive to Danley Park.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – LINC SURVEY AND FUNDING PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Gaither reported that LeeTran, Collier Area Transit (CAT), the City of Bonita Springs and the Lee MPO have been meeting to discuss the LinC Route, which connects Lee and Collier County transit systems, and to attempt to seek funding solutions to allow the route to continue in FY2015 and beyond. He stated that FDOT, the City of Bonita Springs, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Lee County have provided the funding to operate the route through FY2014, using a bus provided by CAT. The Service Development Grant expires at the end of FY 2014 which would leave a gap of approximately \$237,000 to run the service the following year. The City of Bonita Springs anticipates its contribution of \$171,306 will be eliminated or diminished over time and that the stakeholders agree that LeeTran should continue to operate the route in the future. The LinC Performance Measures for the last 2 years were:

FY2011/12

- ❖ LinG Route 600 had 95,895 unlinked trips;
- ❖ The route carried 20.1 passengers per hour;
- ❖ LeeTran System average is 20.5 passengers per hour

FY2012/13

- ❖ LinG Route 600 had 117,207 unlinked trips, a 22.2 % increase;
- ❖ The route carried 24.6 passengers per hour, and
- ❖ Lee Tran System average is 22.1 passengers per hour

Annual funding proposal for the next 3 years is as follows:

Total Annual Cost (Route 150 & LinC Route 600)	\$1,047,068
Less Fare Revenue	\$163,955
Net Cost	\$883,113
Collier FTA Contribution	\$292,247
Collier FTA New Freedom	\$24,184
City of Bonita Springs	\$171,306

OLD BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #7 – DISCUSSION ON THE DISTRICT ONE FUNDING POLICY FOR BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS WITH SIGNIFICANT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

This was discussed under agenda item 3.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – STAFF UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS AND BPCG INPUT

Mr. Scott provided an update on implementation status of the TIGER project and reported on the safety meeting with law enforcement agencies. Ms. Letourneau called for the formation of a BPCG Safety Working Group to analyze the bike ped crashes on US 41 and Del Prado Boulevard. Ms. Letourneau, Mr. Moser and Mr. Tesoro volunteered to serve in this committee with Mr. Moser volunteering to serve as the committee chair.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #7 – PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS

None.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – LEETRAN REPORT

Mr. Gaither reported that ridership had gone down by 2% from last February, and that ridership numbers have been declining lately in consecutive months. Because of the budget cuts LeeTran had introduced two new days of non-transit service in November and January which affected the ridership numbers in those months. Ms. Letourneau

stated that given the increase in visitors and number of jobs in Lee County, the LeeTran ridership numbers should have been up normal circumstances. The declining numbers of ridership should have been reported at the joint MPO Board meeting so the elected officials could have seen the damages being done by the budget cuts.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – FDOT REPORT

Mr. Muller reported that the City of Fort Myers received a FDOT landscaping grant of \$66,000 for the Colonial corridor.

AGENDA ITEM #11 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Huff reported that Elisa Yanes would be replacing her as the school representative at the BPC. Mr. Moser announced a Show and Tell Bike Ride on Wednesday, April 9th in Fort Myers. Mayor Henderson would be attending with City staff.

Mr. Gogoi announced that for the May meeting there will be someone from the Florida greenways and Trails Foundation and that he would be discussing the Coast to Coast Connector along with two other trails that are being proposed. One of them is the Southwest Trail which will run on US 41, Veterans Parkway and Burnt Store Road.

AGENDA ITEM #12 – INFORMATION AND DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

MOTION BY MR. OVERMYER TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY MR. TESORO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.