

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

Held on August 26, 2014

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee was held on August 26, 2014 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
Linda Carter	CAC
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks
Mark Tesoro	Lee Memorial Health System
Masood Mirza	City of Cape Coral
Stacy Revay	Collier County Growth Management Division
Steve Avakian	City of Sanibel
Steve Jansen	Lee County CTST
Syndi Bultman	Lee Memorial Health System

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; D’Juan Harris with FDOT; Roman Serrano with the Lee County Sheriff’s Office; Sue Faulkner with Collier MPO; Sally Kreuzscher with Safe Kids; and Melanie Payne with the News-Press.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jansen 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 AUGUST 26, 2014 BPC MEETING MINUTES

MOTION BY MR. MOSER TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 26, 2014 BPC MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MS. CARTER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #2– DISCUSSION OF ISSUES ON ACCOMODATING A SHARED USE PATH ON SR 80

Mr. Ryan Weeks from FDOT informed the committee that building a 10' wide multi use path on the north side of SR 80 from Shoreland to Buckingham Road as called for in the scope would drive up construction costs to \$2.2 million. The construction funds currently programmed for this project is \$1.2 million. The excessive costs is due to mitigating the impacts to the existing linear ponds that will result from the construction of the shared used path. On the other hand, building a 6' wide sidewalk will bring the costs down to \$1.2 million with less impacts to the linear ponds. The project could be built along the entire length in the current schedule as a 6' wide sidewalk, or it could be staged into 2 segments and built as a 10' multi use path with different time schedules and more money. Mr. Weeks asked for directions from the committee as to how to approach this project.

MOTION BY MR. GETCH FOR FDOT TO DESIGN THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE PROJECT AS A 10' WIDE MULTI USE PATH AND EVALUATE STAGING THE PROJECT BASED ON MONEY IN AVAILABLE BUDGET AND FOR MPO STAFF TO BRING BACK THE BALANCE OF PROJECT FOR COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION IN THE FUTURE. SECONDED BY MR. MOSER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON DRAFT 2014 CONGESTION MONITORING REPORT

Mr. Getch shared his comments on the 2014 Congestion Monitoring Report (CMR) with the committee. Mr. Gogoi explained the public involvement in the congestion management process is an important component. The MPO's congestion reporting surveys have drawn praise from the FHWA and the documentation of congestion reported by the public is encouraged by the feds. The MPO also uses performance measures to evaluate the transportation network which is done every 3 years in the CMR, and staff will provide this component of the CMR again in 2015. Map 3 showing congested locations will be modified, and comments received as part of the input process will be addressed. The way congestion is defined in the report will be explained. Mr. Getch suggested changes to Map 3 that included distinguishing roadways which are being monitored for congestion and those facilities which are already failing, and adding a legend for constrained facilities where congestion has been accepted. Mr. Moser stated money is there for County administration to expand LeeTran bus service that could alleviate congestion but the money is not being paired up with the right priorities.

AGENDA ITEM #4 –REPORT ON FINDINGS OF LCSHO BIKE PED EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT EVENTS

Roman Serrano with the LCSO gave a report on 4 large scale operations they conducted on hot spots in the month of August with the High Speed Visibility Enforcement grant. The large scale operations were supplemented with officers using overtime hours to conduct specific enforcement operations. The hot spots locations included Pine Island Road from US 41 to Bus 41, Bus 41 from Powell Road to Marianna, US 41 from Boy Scout Road to Andrea Lane, Old 41 from Bonita Beach Road to Rosemary Avenue, West Terry Street from the Middle School to Matheson, Palm Beach Boulevard from Veronica Shoemaker Parkway to Underwood, and Ortiz from Palm to Ballard. They handed out at

least 60 bicycle light kits, issued 89 citations to motorists for speed and stop sign violations, issued 124 written warnings to mostly bicyclists as part of bike ped education, and gave 12 verbal warnings. The LCSO has submitted a full HVE grant for next fiscal year and the large scale operations conducted with those funds would hit corridors in Lehigh Acres including Homestead Road from Lee to Alabama, and Lee Boulevard by the Walmart.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – REPORT ON SR 78 AND DEL PRADO BOULEVARD INTERSECTION REVIEW

Chairperson Jansen reported on the CTST intersection review of SR 78 and Del Prado Boulevard. The issue was the bulbout at the SW corner of the intersection that does not allow the continuation of the bicycle lane on Del Prado Boulevard southbound after crossing Pine Island Road. Discussion ensued regarding whether it was the County or the state that owned the water treatment area at the SW corner, next to the 7-11. Mr. Jansen suggested that if the retention pond is in right of way belonging to the county, a project to realign the sidewalk across the retention pond and add the bicycle lane would be brought up before the BPAC for funding. The County would approach the state to do the project if the pond was in the state right of way.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – PRESENTATION OF MPO BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Raimondo presented the recommendations from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Audit Report which involved RSAs at 4 intersections in Lee County including SR 78 and Santa Barbara Boulevard, SR 80 and Marsh Avenue, US 41 and Gladiolus/Six Mile Cypress Parkway, and Colonial Boulevard and Six Mile Cypress Parkway.

OLD BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #7 – STAFF UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS

The Committee decided not to hold a joint meeting with the Collier Pathways Advisory Committee on September 30th due to lack of items, and instead hold a regular BPCC meeting on that date. Ms. Stacey Revay and Ms. Sue Faulkner provided updates on the River of Grass Greenway project. Mr. Ryan Weeks provided an update of the design currently under way for the westernmost segment from 6L Farms to CR 92, and he reported that construction is programmed in FY 2015/16.

Mr. Gogoi provided updates on two ongoing MPO projects including the Bus Queue Jump and Bus Pullout Study.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Gogoi introduced Mr. D’Juan Harris as FDOT’s new liaison to the Lee MPO.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Mr. Getch reported that the County BPAC will be looking at a big list of projects to prioritize from, and that he would be also including the SR 78 and Del Prado project to that list. He also asked committee members to spread the word that there were a couple of vacancies in the BPAC.

Mr. Tesoro reported that the Lee Memorial Trauma Service evaluated the injury numbers for April and that there were 20 bike versus auto injuries of which 14 were trauma alert.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – LEETRAN REPORT

Ms. Bielawska announced that LeeTran would be holding its 6th Annual Food Drive on September 21st and they will be working with Publix and Harry Chapin Food Bank to collect food for the Lee County community. Last year they collected 157,957 lbs. of food. She also reported that the July ridership numbers declined by 4.81% passenger trips as compared to same month in 2013, and that they are on track to complete the construction of the new operations facility in January.

AGENDA ITEM #11 – FDOT REPORT

None.

AGENDA ITEM #12 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

AGENDA ITEM #13 – INFORMATION AND DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.