

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT LEE/COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(MPO)
BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE (BPCC) AND
PATHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEETING**

Held on February 27, 2015

10 A.M.

The following members were present for the joint meeting of the Collier and Lee County MPO BPCC/PAC on February 27, 2015 at the Council Chambers, Bonita Springs City Hall, 9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs.

Collier County MPO PAC Members Present:

Dayna Fendrick, At-Large
Al Musico, At-Large
Joe Bonness, At-Large
Victor Ordija, At-Large
Jane Cheffy, At-Large
Joe Adams, At-Large
Deb Chesna, At-Large

Lee County MPO BPCC Members Present:

Lee Waller, Lee County Department of Parks & Recreation
Ryan Shute, At-Large
Jennifer Hagen, City of Bonita Springs
Elisa Yanes, Lee County School District
Simone Behr, Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
Anna Bielawska, LeeTran
Mark Tesoro, Lee Memorial Health System
Andy Getch, Lee County Department of Transportation
Avelino Cancel, City of Fort Myers
Salli Kirkland, City of Sanibel

Collier MPO Staff Present:

Lucilla Ayer, MPO Executive Director
Lorraine Lantz, Principal Planner
Ward Kennedy, Planner
Kristin Campos, MPO Administrative Secretary

Lee County MPO Staff Present:

Don Scott, MPO Executive Director
Ron Gogoi, Transportation Planning Administrator

Others Present:

Matt Feeny, Bonita Springs Public Works Director
Cara Baker, Lee County Department of Health
Trisha Goff, City of Bonita Springs

Allen Weiss, NCH Healthcare System
Sarah Baker, Lee County Department of Health
Sarah Plummer, LeeTran
Beth Brainard, Naples Pathways Coalition (NPC)
Darla Letourneau, Bike Walk Lee
Anne Pierce, Bike Walk Lee
Laurie Beard, Collier County Growth Management Division (GMD) Transportation Planning Department
L.K. Nandam, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Suzanne Lex, FDOT
David Jones, FDOT
Mike Kautz, FDOT
D’Juan Harris, FDOT
Laura Hallman, citizen

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Ms. Fendrick.

Ms. Campos called the roll for the Collier PAC and announced that a quorum was present

Mr. Gogoi called the roll for the Lee County BPCC and announced that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2 - Election of a Chairperson

Ms. Lantz stated that since Ms. Fendrick and Mr. Musico were present, staff’s recommendation was to elect Ms. Fendrick as Chairwoman.

Ms. Fendrick was elected Chairwoman of the February 27, 2015 Joint Lee/Collier BPCC/PAC meeting.

**MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO ELECT MS. FENDRICK AS CHAIRWOMAN.
SECONDED BY MR. MUSICO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agenda Item 3 - Public Comments

None.

Agenda Item 4 - Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Lantz stated that staff’s recommendation was to move Item 6A – Presentation on the Blue Zone Project to the beginning of the Agenda due to time constraint by the presenter.

**MOTION BY MR. MUSICO TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH
MODIFICATIONS. SECONDED BY MS. CHEFFY. MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

Reports and Presentations

Agenda Item 6A – Presentation on the Blue Zones Project

Mr. Tesoro introduced Dr. Allen Weiss, President and CEO of NCH Healthcare System. Mr. Tesoro stated that Dr. Weiss was appointed president and CEO of NCH Healthcare System, a 715-bed, two-hospital integrated healthcare system in Naples, Florida, in September 2006. In 2013, Dr. Weiss was named Man of Distinction and one of 15 citizens who had the most influence on Naples during the past 15 years. Dr. Weiss' main interest lies in developing the three core competencies of the NCH Healthcare System which include quality, operational efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

Dr. Weiss introduced himself to Committee members and stated that an eight year long global longevity study of several blue zones by a team of researchers, followed by a National Geographic article by Dan Buettner in 2005, highlighting the results of a study, and his subsequent Blue Zone book led to the development of the Blue Zones program. Dr. Weiss explained that the Blue Zones Project is a community-wide well-being improvement initiative that encourages changes to our surroundings and built-environment that lead to healthier options. When all parts of the community participate from worksites and schools to restaurants and grocery stores it is the small changes each add up to huge benefits for the community. Together, we can lower healthcare costs, boost productivity, and improve quality of life.

Dr. Weiss presented a brief video on the Blue Zones program which explained the Power 9 principals identified as shared lifestyle traits across all five identified Blue Zones which includes:

- Move naturally
 1. Make daily physical activity a part of your environment.
- Right outlook
 2. Know your purpose.
 3. Downshift: Work less, slow down and take vacations.
- Eat wisely
 4. Eat until your 80% full.
 5. Eat more vegetables, eat less meat and less processed food.
 6. Drink a glass of red wine each day.
- Belong
 7. Create a healthy social network.
 8. Connect/reconnect with religion.
 9. Prioritize family.

Dr. Weiss noted that the focus of the Blue Zones Project is to positively impact well-being by creating environments that promote the Power 9 principles.

Discussion ensued regarding targeting the seasonal residents. Dr. Weiss stated that the Blue Zones Project Community Assessment took place between October 2014 and December 2014 with activities throughout the inland and coastal areas of Collier County and South Lee County.

Dr. Weiss stated that the Collier County School District will be encouraged to establish or enhance existing wellness policies and programs to make individual school changes easier.

The Committee thanked Dr. Weiss for his thorough and informative presentation.

Action Items

Agenda Item 5A – Approval of the Proposed Changes to the Southwest Coast Connector

Ms. Lantz introduced the item and stated that Lee County and Collier MPO's Southwest Coast Connector (SW2C) Working Group met on January 30th to review and evaluate the Lee and Collier portion of the proposed Southwest Coast Connector identified in the Priority Trails Map of the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan. She stated that the Working Group was comprised of Lee County BPCC and Collier PAC members. Ms. Lantz explained that the Priority Trails Map includes those high priority trails of statewide and regional significance from the Land Trails Opportunity Map and that both maps are part of FGTS Plan.

Ms. Lantz reported that in addition to the proposed changes to the Southwest Coast Connector, the Working Group felt that there was a need to show a separate trail in the Priority Trails Map that connects both counties and that traverses through the rural areas in Collier, Hendry and Lee Counties. Ms. Lantz noted that this trail, identified in the Lee and Collier Regional Pathways Map, have sections which already have existing or programmed pathways. Ms. Lantz explained that MPO staff is calling this new trail simply the "Rural Connector" which will hook up with the Southwest Coast Connector in Lee County. The proposals of the Working Group were presented for comments to the Lee MPO's TAC and CAC at their February 5th meetings, and the Collier MPO's PAC at its February 17th meeting.

Mr. Gogoi announced that the proposed changes will have to be submitted to the Office of Greenways and Trail (OGT) by April 30th so that they can be considered during the update to the FGTS Plan currently under way.

MOTION BY MR. ADAMS TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SOUTHWEST COAST CONNECTOR. SECONDED BY MR. MUSICO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item 5B – MPO Recommendation of Joint Regional Pathway Priorities

Mr. Gogoi introduced the item and reported that last year the Lee County and Collier MPO had submitted two regional pathway priorities which were adopted by the Joint MPO Board for funding through Transportation Alternative (TA) - Any Area funds. Mr. Gogoi explained that only one project was funded through SU funds, specifically allocated to the Lee MPO and not through TA funds. The unfunded project from last year is as follows:

- Old 41 from US 41 in Collier County to Bonita Beach Road in Lee County - \$1,694,310 for the design and construction of a 10-foot wide shared-use path on the west side of Old 41.

Mr. Gogoi reported that the unfunded project is identified in the Lee-Collier Joint Regional Pathway Network, a requirement for any bicycle pedestrian project that is considered for discretionary funding and submitted jointly by the Lee County and Collier MPOs as a regional project. He explained that assignment of project priorities was not warranted since only one project is being submitted for funding. Mr. Gogoi suggested that the Joint Committee endorse the project for FDOT consideration, utilizing District One "Any Area" TA funds, during the development of the new FDOT Work Program.

MOTION BY MR. MUSICO TO ENDORSE THE JOINT REGIONAL PATHWAY PROJECT. SECONDED BY MR. ADAMS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports and Presentations

Agenda Item 6B – Overview of Safety Project Criteria

Mr. D’Juan Harris introduced Mr. Mike Kautz with FDOT who provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Mr. Kautz reported that the primary purpose of HSIP was the reduction of fatal and serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes on all public roads. Mr. Kautz stated that HSIP now operates under Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP – 21) continues the HSIP as a core federal-aid program with nearly double the funds.

Mr. Kautz reported that the Highway Safety Improvement Project (HSIP) has placed a great focus on data to identify performance measures to achieve the highway safety goal. He noted that the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) remains the key component of the HSIP. Mr. Kautz stated that the SHSP identifies key transportation safety needs and prioritizes strategies to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. He noted that Florida’s SHSP is a statewide, data-driven plan that addresses the "4 E’s" of safety – engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency response.

Mr. Kautz discussed Florida’s Strategic Highway Safety Plans Emphasis Areas which includes:

- Aggressive driving;
- At risk drivers (teen drivers and aging road users);
- Distracted driving;
- Impaired driving;
- Intersection crashes;
- Lane departure crashes;
- Traffic data; and
- Vulnerable road users (bicyclists/pedestrians and motorcyclists)

Mr. Kautz discussed the HSIP Project Selection Process includes:

1. Develop and analyze high crash lists and locations based on crash rate.
2. Solicit ideas from FDOT Departments and local governments.
3. Determine if other projects are scheduled at the location.

4. Gather all available crash data and develop collision diagrams and summaries.
5. Detailed review of the location by qualified personnel and document potential improvement ideas.
6. Develop a conceptual design
7. Perform constructability and feasibility review.
8. Develop project cost estimate.
9. Calculate the benefit/cost and net present value.
10. Program the project during the Work Program gaming cycle.

Mr. Kautz stated that the Benefit-Cost ratio is based on the economic benefits of reducing crash occurrences versus the expenditure of funds to construct the safety project. He reported that the HSIP estimates the benefit to society based on the cost per crash by facility type.

Mr. Musico questioned if the US 41 and Airport-Pulling Road - Road Safety Audit (RSA) would be completed by July so it could be programmed in the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program. Mr. Kautz stated that he was hopeful that the RSA would be complete before the gaming cycle.

Mr. Kautz reported that money for safety projects would not be available until 2018. He noted that approximately \$4 million would be earmarked for 2016 for off-system roadways.

Mr. L.K. Nandam, Traffic Operations Engineer with FDOT, stated that the Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow initiative by FDOT, was implemented to focus funding on the areas that have the greatest opportunity to reduce pedestrian and bicycle fatalities, injuries and crashes. He noted that FDOT has taken a proactive approach to safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Nandam reported that FDOT created a position for a bicycle/pedestrian coordinator to assist in safety efforts.

Ms. Campos announced that there was a registered public speaker. Ms. Darla Letourneau, Bike Walk Lee, stated that this topic has been of great concern to her. She noted that there needs to be a structural change in the way that the FDOT prioritizes safety projects. Ms. Letourneau stated that there should only be one list of safety projects. She stated that she would like to see Lee and Collier County have a more formalized role for the Committees.

Mr. Nandam explained that he would be in contact with the MPO to work on the issues regarding coordination.

Agenda Item 6C – Presentation on the Bonita Springs Downtown Improvement Project

Mr. Matt Feeney reported that the City of Bonita Springs has committed \$16 million towards downtown improvements project along Old 41 from Terry Street south to the Oak Creek Bridge.

Improvements include sidewalk and bicycle connectivity, drainage, landscaping, utility relocation, parking, streetscape, etc. Two roundabouts are proposed as part of this project, one at the intersection of Old 41 and West Terry Street and the other at the Old 41 and Pennsylvania Avenue intersection. Completions of the improvements are expected to attract businesses to downtown Bonita Springs and promote urban infill development.

Mr. Feeney discussed the goals of the Downtown Improvement which includes:

- Economic investment and redevelopment
- Area wide drainage improvements
- Open Imperial River and Oak Creek views
- Pedestrian friendly streetscape and complete streets improvements
- Provide downtown area parking

Agenda Item 6D – Update on the Vanderbilt Drive Greenway

Ms. Lantz presented an update on the Vanderbilt Drive Greenway and reported that for the past few years, Collier County has pursued the planning and design of what has become known as the Vanderbilt Drive Greenway, a multi-use pathway to be located along the west side of Vanderbilt Drive extending from Bonita Beach Road on the north to 111th Avenue North/Bluebill Avenue on the south. She stated that as a result of funding made available through a developer Settlement Agreement between Collier County and Lodge Abbott Associates in June 2008, the County initiated a planning process that incorporated an extensive public involvement/participation process to help define the scope and purpose of the corridor improvements.

Ms. Lantz stated that during the public involvement/participation process intended to define the “greenway” improvement, ancillary concerns were raised about the safety of cyclists traveling within the roadway along the southern 1.25 miles of the 4-mile long corridor and the safety of pedestrians wishing to cross Vanderbilt Drive in an effort to access the new pathway to/from developments located along the east side of Vanderbilt Drive.

Ms. Lantz discussed the proposed improvements which include:

- Provide a pathway on the west side of Vanderbilt Drive.
- Provide five-foot shoulders on both sides of Vanderbilt Drive from 111th Avenue North to the Cocohatchee River Bridge.
- Add enhanced warning signs, pavement markings or other acceptable treatments to create visibility and promote safety for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists at the pathway’s crossings of the various driveways on the west side of Vanderbilt Drive.

Agenda Item 7 - Florida Department of Transportation

None.

Agenda Item 8 - Transit Update

Ms. Bielawska reported that LeeTran has added Sunday service to Route 70 and Route 110 which has proven to be successful with an average of 200 passengers every Sunday.

Agenda Item 9 - Members Comments

None.

Agenda Item 10 - Information Items

- A. February 25, 2014 Joint BPCC/PAC Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 11 - Adjournment of Meeting

Having no further business, the Joint BPCC/PAC meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:11 p.m.