

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

Held on November 25, 2014

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee was held on November 25, 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
David Wagley	LCDOT
Dru Doyle	Member-At-Large
Linda Carter	CAC
Mark Tesoro	Lee Memorial Health System
Ryan Shute	Member-At-Large
Simone Behr	Lee County VCB
Stacy Revay	Collier County Transportation Planning
Steve Avakian	City of Sanibel
Steve Chupack	Member At-Large

Others in attendance included Brian Raimondo and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Sue Faulkner and Kristin Campos with Collier MPO; D’Juan Harris with FDOT; Jennifer Hagen with City of Bonita Springs; Keith Williams with City of Sanibel; Darla Letourneau with BikeWalkLee; and Isobel Hitchcock.

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 28, 2014 BPCC MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR. CANCEL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #2– PRESENTATION ON THE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS OF SANIBEL’S SHARED USE PATH SYSTEM

Mr. Keith Williams, Public Works Director with the City of Sanibel provided the background and an update on the City's pathway system. He reported that there are 25+ miles of existing paved shared use paths and an additional 8 miles of natural surface paths, and that 4,650 bicyclists and 1,300 pedestrians use the paths at any given time in season. User surveys conducted in 2006 and 2012 showed that there was an increase of 56% bicyclists and 76% pedestrians in the 6 year time period. Recently completed notable projects include the Dunlop Wooster Path, Dixie Beach Road and Bailey Road Path Extensions, East Periwinkle Way Path improvements and extension, and the boardwalks at Shipley Park and Pond Apple Park. The City will be undertaking a project in the summer of 2015 that will realign the intersection of San Cap Road and Bowmans Beach Road for better sight distances, and build a 10' shared use path on Bowmans Beach Road. The project cost is \$400,000 funded with a 50%/50% DEP grant and local match. Two other projects that will be undertaken in the summer is the Wulfert Wildlife Drive and Tarpon Bay Road Paths funded with a \$470,000 Federal Access Grant. There was a discussion on various safety issues including more visible crosswalks, alternative solutions to the pavement stop marking signs on the paths at every road crossing, driver and bicycle/pedestrian education and user rights-of-way.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE 2014 CONGESTION MONITORING REPORT

MOTION BY MR. GETCH TO APPROVE THE 2014 CONGESTION MONITORING REPORT. SECONDED BY MR. TESORO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – DISCUSSION ON AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CONNECTOR

Mr. Scott provided an overview of recent statewide developments in funding a connected trail system, regional connectors and issues with the Lee portion of the present route of the Southwest Trail Connector connecting Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties. He also reported on an alternate route that was proposed by Ms. Maureen Bonness and that connected to Lee County at SR 82, and stated there was an opportunity to revise the route during the upcoming update to the OGT Greenways and Trails System Plan. There was strong support from the committee that the route should stay along the urban corridors so that cyclists have access to downtown attractions, and that the alternative will add 30 to 60 miles to get from downtown Fort Myers to downtown Naples. There was support for using of the Seminole Gulf Railroad right-of-way as an option to US 41 in Lee County, and also using the Gordon River Greenway in Collier County. It was decided that a working group committee including stakeholders from Lee and Collier Counties meet to discuss options. Sue Falkner, Avelino Cancel, Dru Doyle, Darla Letourneau, Jennifer Hagen volunteered to be part of the Working Group.

Chairperson Carter called for a cancellation of the December 23rd BPCC Meeting.

**MOTION BY MR. CANCEL TO CANCEL THE DECEMBER 23RD BPC
MEETING. SECONDED BY MS. DOYLE. MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #6 – STAFF UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS

Mr. Scott provided an update on countywide bike ped crash statistics. He stated that staff will develop a report on the status of recommendations from the Lee MPO Bike Ped Safety Action Plan and the Bike Ped Master Plan for the MPO Board, and that staff will be bringing the report first to the BPC for input. He also shared the FDOT notification on bike ped policy changes affecting the Plans Preparation Manual that could be incorporated in the Bike Ped Master Plan. Mr. Getch asked the question whether the policy changes will be also addressed in the Florida Green Book.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Ms. Letourneau called for an item at a future BPC meeting on the status of the recommendations of the Lee MPO Bike Ped Safety Action Plan and the Lee MPO Bike Ped Master Plan.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Ms. Behr reported on the National Bicycle Tourism Conference.

Mr. Getch reported that he had met with the design team of the Leeland Heights Boulevard sidewalk project, and that they discussed issues with the project, and that the costs have gone up.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – LEETRAN REPORT

Ms. Bielawska reported that the opening of the new LeeTran Operations Facility is on track, and that Sunday services will be available for Bus Routes 110 and 70 starting January.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – FDOT REPORT

None

AGENDA ITEM #12 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

AGENDA ITEM #13 – INFORMATION AND DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.