

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

**Estero Community Park & Recreation Center  
9200 Corkscrew Boulevard, Room 102A  
Estero, Florida**

**9:30 A.M.**

**February 26, 2013 Joint Lee-Collier BPCC/PAC Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. Ms. Kristin Campos, Collier MPO Administrative Secretary, called the roll for the Collier MPO PAC and the Lee County MPO BPCC and announced that both counties' committees had attained quorums. Those in attendance were as follows:

**Lee County MPO BPCC Members Present:**

Linda Carter, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Jeff Davis, City of Bonita Springs

Steve Jansen, Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST)

Dan Moser, Injury Prevention Coalition (IPC)

Dawn Huff, Lee County School District

Wayne Gaither, LeeTran

Mark Tesoro, Lee Memorial Health System

Avelino Cancel, City of Fort Myers

Mike Tisch, Lee County Department of Transportation

Karen Solgard, At-Large

Pat Young, At-Large

Reed Jarvi, Collier County Growth Management Division (GMD) Transportation Planning Department, non-voting

**Lee County MPO Staff Present:**

Don Scott, Executive Director

Ron Gogoi, Transportation Planning Administrator

**Collier MPO PAC Members Present:**

Dayna Fendrick, Chairwoman, At-Large

Alan Musico, Vice-Chairman, At-Large

Joe Bonness, At-Large

Jim Klug, At-Large

Michael Dolan, At-Large

**Collier MPO Staff Present:**

Sue Faulkner, Principal Planner

Sarah Layman, Planner

Kristin Campos, MPO Administrative Secretary

**Others Present:**

Trinity Scott, Collier County Alternative Transportation Modes (ATM) Department

Russ Muller, FDOT

Maureen Bonness, River of Grass Greenway (ROGG)

Patty Huff, ROGG

Stacy Revay, Collier County GMD Transportation Planning Department

Darla Letourneau, Bike Walk Lee

Deborah McCormick, Naples Pathway Coalition

**2. Election of a Chairperson**

**MR. BONNESS MOTIONED TO NOMINATE MR. MOSER AS CHAIR. MS. CARTER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Public Comments**

Ms. Faulkner introduced Ms. McCormick, Naples Pathways Coalition, to give a presentation on the proposed Rookery Bay Greenway. Ms. McCormick gave a brief PowerPoint presentation. Ms. McCormick stated that meetings had taken place 3 to 4 times last year and Naples Pathways Coalition had funded a feasibility study with Terrell & Associates. Ms. McCormick stated that she had met with FP&L about 2 years ago to discuss whether to build the pathway straight up to US 41 or whether to build the pathway leading to Bayshore Road. She stated that for safety purposes, the plan was to move forward with a connection to Bayshore Road. Ms. McCormick explained that the Botanical Gardens on Bayshore Road have agreed to be a partner.

Ms. McCormick stated that the grant application has begun for Phase 1 of the project. Ms. McCormick stated that Terrell & Associates is working with FP&L to be able to utilize the easement of the FP&L power line.

Ms. Faulkner discussed FP&L line on Livingston Road on the adopted regional network map that was placed at Committee members' seats. She stated that a part of the Rookery Bay Greenway had been shown in not only the regional network map adopted by the Joint MPOs on March 18, 2011, but also was shown in the Statewide Trails Opportunities map that was developed in 2012.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

**MS. CARTER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MS. FENDRICK SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Action Items**

**A. MPO Recommendations of Joint Regional Pathways Priorities**

Mr. Gogoi presented the item and stated that the number one Joint Regional Pathways Priority was ROGG. Mr. Gogoi stated that the project limits of ROGG are US 41 from CR 92 to Marsh Trail Trailhead. Mr. Gogoi discussed the Joint Regional Pathway Priorities in order of the staff proposed priorities:

1. US 41 from CR 92 to Marsh Trail Trailhead
2. Abel Canal PD&E Study from Joel Boulevard to Harnes Marsh
3. Winkler Canal Feasibility Study from McGregor Avenue to Cleveland Avenue

Mr. Gogoi stated that the Abel Canal Greenway PD&E request will allow the planning, design and public input processes for a proposed high-quality, off-road multi-use pedestrian/bicycle facility on an existing East County Water Control District right-of-way along the Abel Canal. Mr. Gogoi stated that the project is approximately 5 ½ miles.

Mr. Gogoi stated that staff is proposing that ROGG remain number one in the Joint Regional Enhancement Pathway Priorities.

Chairman Moser questioned why the SR 78 Shared Use Path and Bike Lanes project between East of Park 78 Drive and Durrance Road disappeared from the Joint Regional Enhancement Priorities list. Mr. Scott explained that there were right-of-way issues on SR 78 east of I-75 and that the project will compete against the Lee MPO's highway capacity projects for the County's share of District 1 allocated STP and State funds.

**MR. MUSICO MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE JOINT REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT PRIORITIES. MS. CARTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Ms. Letourneau stated that when the Joint Regional Enhancement Priorities List was brought before the Collier MPO Board and the Lee MPO Board, both Boards were concerned about the lack of projects on the list. Ms. Letourneau stated that after discussions with FDOT, she was told that the Abel Canal PD&E Study might be funded in July 2013. She questioned if all the projects on the Joint Regional Enhancement Priority List would be potentially funded in July. Mr. Gogoi explained that staff has an alternative strategy to use Lee MPO's sub-allocation of local TAP funds to fund the Abel Canal PD&E. Mr. Gogoi stated that he is not aware if Collier MPO has an alternative strategy for funding ROGG.

Chairman Moser asked about the Vanderbilt Drive Pathways project and its status. Ms. Faulkner explained that the Vanderbilt Drive project is a Collier County project, not an MPO project.

Mr. Tesoro questioned if the Abel Canal would connect with any existing multi-use facility. Discussion ensued regarding the Abel Canal PD&E Study. Mr. Gogoi stated that the Abel Canal would connect with existing roadways and pedestrian facilities. Mr. Gogoi explained that the Abel Canal Corridor could potentially connect residents who live within a quarter mile to multiple parks, schools, churches and medical offices.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. Reports and Presentations**

**A. Update on the River of Grass Greenway Project**

Ms. Bonness presented a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG). Ms. Bonness explained that ROGG is a proposed non-motorized transportation, educational and recreation corridor, extending 75 miles across the Everglades from Krome Avenue to the western edges of Collier-Seminole State Park.

Ms. Bonness gave an overview of the corridor. Ms. Bonness stated that currently there is a PD&E Study in ROGG West which is from 6 L's Farm Road to SR 29 and was funded through a FDOT Regional Transportation Enhancement grant. Ms. Bonness stated that ROGG East limits are from Collier County Line to Krome Avenue which expands 26.2 miles in length. Ms. Bonness explained that a design study is programmed by FDOT in 2015 for ROGG East. Ms. Bonness stated that the design phase of the 2.3 mile segment immediately west of CR 92 was advanced to 2013/14 and the design phase east of CR 92 was not advanced however this project was the Joint PAC's top priority project for Regional Transportation Enhancement Grant.

Ms. Bonness explained that the Feasibility Study & Master Plan that is currently happening for the entire length of the trail which was funded by Sarbanes Transit in Parks Grant from Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Ms. Bonness stated that the Master Plan for ROGG is to provide a shared-use pathway extending greater than 70 miles through 70 miles along US 41. Ms. Bonness stated that the Feasibility Study includes an assessment of corridor and public involvement to determine pathway details. She further explained the schedule and stated that hopefully by March 2014, ROGG Feasibility Study would be complete.

Ms. Bonness discussed the public involvement for ROGG. Ms. Bonness explained that the Conceptual Visioning is happening now and clarified that ROGG is accepting public input through the website and public workshops. Ms. Bonness stated that as of February 2013, the ROGG website has had over 6,000 page views and 1,962 visitors. Ms. Bonness explained the

Regional Work Sessions and stated that the ROGG West had a 5 day Workshop from January 29 to February 2. She further clarified the next Workshops for ROGG Central would be in Everglades City from February 26 to March 2 and ROGG East would be held in Miami at FIU from March 12 to March 16.

Ms. Carter questioned if Miami-Dade County would be funding ROGG Central. Ms. Bonness explained that ROGG Central received two federal grants for approximately \$500,000 and \$1 million. Ms. Bonness stated that the first federal grant paid for the Master Study and when ROGG applied for the second grant, Miami-Dade is not just a recipient of the grant but Miami-Dade also supplied a professional grant writer. Ms. Bonness explained that the grant money went towards the preliminary work before the PD&E for ROGG Central. She further explained that an Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process (ETDM) would have to be completed for ROGG East.

Chairman Moser questioned if the Army Corp of Engineers were partnering with ROGG. Ms. Bonness stated that the Army Corp of Engineers is not part of the Steering Committee but ROGG is in communication with them. Ms. Bonness stated that the Army Corp of Engineers has a very important role in ROGG East for the reason that they have 4 water control structures near the Miccosukee Village where there is no shoulder on the road. Ms. Bonness stated that ROGG has to somehow get around the water control structure to the other end since it is Army Corp of Engineers property.

Ms. Bonness announced that it would be the first ever National Everglades Day on April 7, 2013 and there will also be a bicycle ride called the Everglades Ride 2013 held the same day beginning at McLeod Park. Ms. Bonness stated that if anyone is interested in the bike ride to please check the ROGG website for more details.

#### **B. Presentation on the Status of the Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan**

Mr. Scott presented a presentation on the Status of the Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Mr. Scott stated that the purpose of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan is to identify actions needed to reduce bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries in Lee County.

Mr. Scott explained that Lee County is in the top 10 in Florida for bicycle and pedestrian fatalities therefore the Safety Action Plan is being addressed. Mr. Scott addressed the Major Tasks and the scope which included:

- Stakeholder and Staff Training
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Data Analysis
- Stakeholder and Public Workshops
- Development of Infrastructure, Outreach and Coordination Strategies
- Documentation and Presentation

Mr. Scott stated that stakeholder and staff training was held on December 11<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> in which crash data was analyzed to help identify strategies for implementation. Mr. Scott stated that a Technical Stakeholder Workshop included a discussion on results of a preliminary crash analysis, survey results, the development of a mission statement, goals for the reduction in fatalities and injuries and the discussion on infrastructure and outreach strategies. Mr. Scott stated that Lee County is working on coordination activities and began review of action items.

Mr. Scott explained that the crash data that is being utilized is from 2007 – 2010 and stated that the reason is ~~for the reason~~ that the crash data forms have changed and the crash data from 2011 is not as useful.

Mr. Scott discussed Bicycle Crash maps and Pedestrian Crash maps from 2007 – 2010. Ms. Carter stated that there has to be a common denominator that is being over-looked with all of the accidents and fatalities in Lee County. Mr. Scott explained that most pedestrian accidents and fatalities occur when the pedestrian crosses the street and not along the street itself. He further explained that most bicycle accidents and fatalities occur when the bicyclist is riding the wrong way on the roadway or crossing a driveway.

Mr. Scott discussed Pedestrian Crash Trends which included:

- Most pedestrian crashes occur during daylight hours but greater percentage of night-time crashes result in severe injury
- A majority of crashes occur when attempting to cross the road
- A common crash type is crossing the roadway at night
- Over-represented when compared with state averages is white males

Mr. Scott discussed Bicycle Crash Trends which included:

- Most bicycle crashes occur during daylight hours
- High number of crashes occur when riding against traffic either in road or on sidewalk
- Most bicycle crashes occur when a cyclist is crossing a roadway or in a driveway
- Over-represented when compared to state averages is older drivers and bicyclists 51 to 65 and over 65

Mr. Scott explained the Next Steps that Lee County MPO would be reviewing which included:

- Further analysis of corridor limits
- Analysis of SR 80 before/after median installation
- Identification and review of action items
- Identification of targeted programs
- Additional agency coordination
- Review and input through stakeholders/committees

Ms. Faulkner stated that Collier County is drafting a scope to implement a Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan at the March Collier PAC meeting. Ms. Faulkner stated that there was a request from the Collier PAC to attend the Lee BPCC meetings to better understand what the Lee BPCC is working on. Mr. Scott stated that the Lee BPCC would send notifications when the BPCC is planning to bring certain items to the Committees.

Mr. Scott discussed the Draft Action Items that was placed at Committee members' seats. Mr. Scott explained that developing a press conference kit to support law enforcement and other agencies in responding to media inquiries associated with bicycle and pedestrian crashes that attract a lot of media attention. He stated that the purpose of the press kit is to leverage moments of high visibility when media attention is focused on a recent crash.

Mr. Scott stated that the second Action Item would be to develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Outreach Education Campaign within the Lee County area including the municipalities. He suggested structuring a leadership program similar to other successful programs that have been implemented in Florida.

Mr. Scott suggested identifying potential corridors for "Road Diets" and stated that by targeting multi-lane arterial corridors with bicycle/pedestrian crash problems that are underutilized and have excess capacity.

Ms. Solgard suggested targeting the seasonal population that is here part-time with the Florida Drivers Handbook. Mr. Scott stated that discussions have taken place to target hotels and ways to reach the visitors in Fort Myers Beach and Naples.

Mr. Scott stated that the Lee MPO would be pursuing grants for overtime enforcement and partner with law enforcement agencies, especially in high crash areas.

## **7. Florida Department of Transportation**

Mr. Muller announced that Mr. Limbaugh from FDOT had resigned from his position.

## **8. Transit Update**

Mr. Gaither reported that LeeTran has been able to purchase 24 vehicles in which some were replacement vehicles with over 1 million miles.

Ms. Scott presented a PowerPoint presentation on Collier Area Transit (CAT). Ms. Scott explained that the difference in Paratransit trips between FY12 and FY13 and stated that in FY12 Collier County was the Medicaid provider. She further stated that in FY13 Collier County is no longer the Medicaid provider.

Ms. Scott discussed the average cost per passenger trip for Paratransit. Ms. Scott stated that in FY13 the average cost including fuel is \$34.19 and without fuel is \$29.41.

Ms. Scott stated that the MPO Board had a comment regarding establishing a Transit Advisory Committee and CAT staff is moving forward with that. Ms. Scott stated that the role of the Transit Advisory Committee would be to advise staff on improving the operations and how to make the system more efficient. Ms. Scott stated that the Transit Advisory Committee would also be discussing a redesign of the bus shelters. Ms. Scott stated that the Transit Advisory Committee would also discuss the appeal to have buses look different from typical transit buses.

Ms. Scott discussed the Electronic Fareboxes. Ms. Scott stated that the Electronic Fareboxes validates all bills and coins that are put in to the box and there is a display screen to show how much money the passenger put into the farebox. She noted that CAT has transitioned into a smart code reader card and bar code reader on their transit passes as well.

#### **9. Members Comments**

Chairman Moser presented the contents of a CD called Understanding Bicyclists and Pedestrians.

Chairman Moser suggested that the CD be passed on to the Traffic Unit at the Collier County Sheriff's Office. Chairman Moser stated that if the Traffic Unit has questions to contact him or the Florida Bicycle Association.

Chairman Moser announced that there is an open house on Thursday, February 28, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Peters Lutheran Church regarding how to improve Estero Boulevard and Fort Myers Beach.

#### **10. Information Items**

There were no Informational Items.

#### **11. Adjournment of Meeting**

**MS. CARTER MOTIONED TO ADJOURN. MR. MUSICO SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Having no further business, the Joint BPCC/PAC meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 p.m.