

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

Held on March 26, 2013

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee was held on March 26, 2013 at the City of Cape Coral Annex, Room A200 815 Nicholas Parkway, Cape Coral.

Those in attendance included:

Dru Doyle	At-Large Member
Patricia Young	At-Large Member
Karen Solgard	At-Large Member
Linda Carter	CAC
Stephanie Smith	City of Cape Coral
Jeff Davis	City of Bonita Springs
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
Steve Jansen	Lee County CTST
Jay Anderson	Lee County CTST
Mike Tisch	Lee County DOT
Wayne Gaither	LeeTran
Josh Overmyer	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Simone Behr	Visitors Convention Bureau

Others in attendance included Don Scott, Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Gary Amig, Mike Kautz, Kellie Spurgeon and Russ Muller with FDOT; and Darla Letourneau of BikeWalkLee;

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Moser called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Gogoi announced that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**AGENDA ITEM #1 – APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 29, 2013 BPCC MEETING
MINUTES**

**MOTION BY MS. LINDA CARTER TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 29,
2013 BPCC MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR. OVERMYER.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2013 JOINT BPCC AND PAC MEETING MINUTES

MOTION BY MS. LINDA CARTER TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 26, 2013 JOINT MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR. OVERMYER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM #3 - PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #4 – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SCOPE FOR MAP 21 PROJECT FUNDING AND PRIORITIZATION

Mr. Scott gave an overview of the scope that was developed by the MPO General Planning consultants Jacobs and Alta. The scope will develop bicycle pedestrian performance measures and address all funding available for bicycle pedestrian projects under MAP 21. It would overhaul the existing TEA evaluation criteria which will take into consideration new requirements under MAP 21. Ms. Letourneau of BikeWalkLee stated that Alta was the best in the business on bicycle pedestrian studies.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED US 41 PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ISLANDS

Ms. Kelly Spurgeon with FDOT gave an overview of the project. The project includes traffic islands in the median of US 41 at 6 locations where pedestrians have been seen to frequently cross US 41. The traffic islands in the shape of surfboards would assist those pedestrians who want to cross the roadway. Discussion ensued on the City of Fort Myers opposition to the project as it is not consistent with the City's CRA Plans for the corridor. The City would prefer a traffic median with landscaping similar to SR 80. Ms. Carter objected to the project because the proposed traffic islands were not designed to be accessible to wheelchair users. Mr. Jansen supported the project as they would provide some safety to pedestrians where there is currently none at all. It is not perfect but you cannot let perfect be the enemy of the good. Mr. Gogoi pointed out the project's other benefits including proposed improvements that would make various intersections accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists and wheelchair users. Mr. Gaither stated that if landscaped medians and road dieting is considered on US 41, he would like to see transit lanes addressed in the design.

MOTION BY MR. JANSEN TO GENERALLY APPROVE THE STATE'S CONCEPT OF IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON US 41 BY INSTALLING THE PEDESTRIAN REFUGE SAFETY ISLANDS. SECONDED BY MS. SOLGARD. MOTION CARRIED WITH MS. LINDA CARTER DISSENTING.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – UPDATE ON THE BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Mr. Scott presented the Goals and Objectives, and the proposed Actions that were developed as part of the MPO's Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Discussion ensued on pedestrian accessible issues on West Terry Street/Old 41 intersection. The City recently added dual left turn and right turn lanes at this intersection. The traffic signals include permissive lefts which conflicts with the pedestrian signal phase, making it dangerous to pedestrians, cyclists or wheelchair users try to cross the intersection. Mr. Davis agreed to take this issue up with the City of Bonita Springs.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – DISCUSSION ON SR 80 BEFORE/AFTER EVALUATION OF MEDIAN TRAFFIC SEPARATOR

Mr. Scott opened the discussion on the SR 80 Before/After evaluation of median traffic separator and invited FDOT representatives to speak about it. Mr. Gary Amig with FDOT mentioned that the study has indicated that all types of crashes have gone down with the installation of the traffic separator from Seaboard Street to I 75. He, however, noted that traffic has also gone down since the separator was installed as a result of the down economy. The fact that a lot of people living in the surrounding community left the area could also contribute to the decrease in crashes.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – PRESENTATION ON SAFE STREET ACTIVITIES

Mr. Moser stated that this event originated from the Healthy Lee Coalition and addresses obesity and lack of activities. The event is planned to be held 3 to 4 times a year throughout Lee County and would require closing down the main streets for 4 hours for showcasing niche activities by various organizations. Restaurants and food vendors can also showcase healthy food and nutrition, and there could be activities such as jump roping and skate boarding. All this would lead to a sense of community. He also mentioned that this concept has been borrowed from Colombia where it is called Ciclovía and very popular and is also similar to events held in Seattle in the 60s. They are planned on being held during the weekends, and would cost approximately \$100,000 to hold each event, would therefore require donations. The organizers would also have to coordinate with the local government jurisdictions where the event would be held.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #9 – PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Doyle gave an update on the ongoing coordination with Visitor Convention Bureau to create a web page that focusses on bicycling and hiking to attract visitors to Lee County. Mr. Raimondo gave a printing update on the 3rd edition Lee MPO Bicycle maps. Discussion ensued on dissemination of the bike maps.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN RELATED PROJECTS

Mr. Davis reported that the City of Bonita Springs is in the process of hiring a contractor to address a sidewalk gap of 120 linear feet approximately on Dean Street, and will be

installing bus shelters on Old 41. He also reported on the status of the proposed Bonita Trail. Mr. Overmyer gave an update on the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons project undertaken by the Town of Fort Myers Beach. He reported that one had been installed at the south end of Santini Marina Plaza and work was beginning on the second enhanced crossing at the Holiday Inn.

AGENDA ITEM #11 – LEETRAN REPORT

Mr. Gaither reported that LeeTran held the groundbreaking for its new Operations facility, and that LeeTran received FTA’s Transit System of the Year award. Mr. Moser announced that there was going to be a Transit Task Force Committee meeting on Thursday.

AGENDA ITEM #12 – FDOT REPORT

Mr. Muller and Mr. Amig reported hiring updates on the Bike Pedestrian Safety Specialist and Bike Pedestrian Coordinator for District One. The Safety Specialist position was closing and going to be filled but it fell through while they have identified a person for the bike pedestrian coordinator position.

AGENDA ITEM #13 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

AGENDA ITEM #14 – INFORMATION AND DISTRIBUTION ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.