
MINUTES OF THE LEE MPO BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Held on September 27, 2016

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room A of the Fort Myers Regional Library, 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL.

Those in attendance included:

From the BPCC

Andy Getch	Lee County Department of Community Development
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
Dave Wheaton	Member-At-Large
Dawn Huff	Lee County Schools
Diane Holm	Injury Prevention Coalition
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-At-Large
Jason Lamey	Lee County Parks
John Karcher	CAC Member
Mark Tesoro	Lee Memorial Health System
Nena Garrett	Lee County Schools
Roger Lloyd	Lee County Schools
Roman Serrano	Lee County Sheriff
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Sgt. Kulko	Cape Coral Police
Tina Sujana	Member-At-Large

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Sarah Larsen with Lee County Planning; Thomas McGlohon with Lee County Schools; and Mitchell Marinack with SRTS Lee County.

Call to Order and Roll Call of BPCC Meeting

Mr. Moser, BPCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Quorum was met. The members introduced themselves.

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #1 - Approval of the August 23, 2016 BPCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gogoi called out one change to the August 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes to reflect that Isobel Hitchcock, and not David Wagley, had seconded the SR 82 motion.

**Motion by David Wheaton to approve the August 23rd meeting minutes.
Seconded by Carl Karakos. Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item #2 - Amendment of the Lee-Collier Bi-County Regional Pathway Map

Mr. Scott reported that at the March 18th 2016 meeting, the Lee County MPO Board amended the Regional Pathways Map consistent with the recommendations of the Lee MPO's Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) and Collier MPO's Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) from their joint meeting on February 23rd.

The map never got amended by Collier MPO Board as both staff and the PAC, and Collier County Transportation Planning staff felt that the map (which will be available to the public) should be made as simple as possible by showing the entire network in a single color without actually showing status of individual segments (as there were questions and inconsistencies between what is considered programmed, planned and how that is being interpreted by the staff, public and users of the system).

On July 22nd, staff from Lee and Collier MPO, and Collier County Transportation Planning met to resolve the issues, and it was proposed that (1) we show the network in a single color (2) change the title from Pathway to "Non-Motorized" Network as right of way constraints in certain urban areas within the network would not allow accommodation of new shared use paths and that the existing sidewalks have to be maintained, and (3) maintain separate maps for staff and committees' use that illustrate the status of individual segments in the network.

Motion by Sean Gibbons to amend the Lee-Collier Bi-County Regional Pathways Map. Seconded by Doug Saxton. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 - Q&A Session and Identification of Project Proposals for SRTS Infrastructure Funds

Mr. Gogoi presented the questions that Lee County and MPO staff had given FDOT regarding project implementation and amount of SRTS funds available. The preference for implementing projects under a LAP contract is a FDOT District 1 policy as opposed to a Central Office Tallahassee policy. FDOT reason was that it costs more money for the State to build the project plus it takes the State longer to complete the project. It takes three years to complete the project for the State but under a LAP contract it only takes 1-2 years. Through these and follow up questions staff tried to get a definitive answer if there would be any penalties to an application during project evaluation if Lee County BOCC (which is LAP certified) ask FDOT to manage the project. Or for that matter if the request is made in an application by a municipality in Lee County which is not LAP certified. Telephone conversation with District 1 staff indicated that the applications may score negatively but they were reluctant to provide this in writing.

Mr. Scott explained that MPO was already receiving questions about projects that may be funded with TA funds, and why the County was not doing these projects under a LAP contract. This is happening in Collier as well. There is a whole long list of reasons. If it is FDOT's own project they add inflation factors but for the longest time usually local jurisdictions could build it cheaper but now the project costs are getting closer and closer. Where no inflation is taken into account in a project there are contingency funds but it has been observed that there is a difference in contingency between the FDOT project and the LAP project. Some of this seems like a convenient excuse of they are too busy, they want the project done but don't want to do it. But if they are looking at a list of projects and Agency A will do the project but Agency B wants FDOT to do the project, it is something that will affect the project getting funding. The MPO is having a bigger discussion about this amongst the other counties, identifying the issues that we are all dealing with, but it isn't being resolved very quickly at the moment.

The second discussion point was the amount of funds available for this year's funding cycle. SRTS dollars are based on student population in a district. Basically 14% of State student population is in District 1. They have already programmed some of the SRTS funds in upcoming years. Mr. Gogoi showed a slide of the projects currently programmed in District 1 for FYs 2016 through FY 2021. He

reported that the Statewide SRTS Coordinator informed him that \$980,000 in FY 2020, and another \$980,000 in FY 2021 are available to District 1. There will be no funds for District 1 in FY 2022 as FDOT have set aside \$1,000,000 for the implementation of the Tice Sidewalks. Central office will fund projects over and beyond funds designated to a particular District. Lee County is being encouraged to submit as many applications as possible because other Districts in Florida may not apply and FDOT may then use their funds to program projects in District 1. They may even award projects for 2023 and 2024 during the 2016 funding cycle. Lee County gets more SRTS funds than any other county in District 1.

There was also a discussion of school sidewalk needs with local governments reporting the potential projects for which they would desire the school district to prepare applications. Ron asked around the table, starting with Sean Gibbons from Bonita Springs, if there were needs for the funds. Mr. Gibbons stated that Bonita Springs has many projects already in progress and are holding off and not committing as to not take away funding from anyone else. Doug Saxton suggested sidewalk extensions on both sides of River Ranch Road between Corkscrew and Williams.

There was also discussion about SW 25th Street and connecting that to Harns Marsh Elementary and Middle School in Lehigh. Mr. Karakos from the City of Fort Myers suggested resubmitting the Clifford sidewalk project at Edison Park Elementary, possibly Llewellyn from US 41 to Cortez with Fort Myers High and Edison Park in close proximity, and Nuna Avenue by Tice Elementary after drainage/right of way are reviewed. Three Oaks Elementary at Cypress View Drive was also suggested.

Ms. Huff stated that the School District would submit 2 to 3 projects for SRTS funds for the 2016 funding cycle. One of the projects could be the Clifford sidewalk project. The signatures in the original application would need to be changed but everything else could be submitted the same way, unless the cost had changed. Another project could be SW 25th Street sidewalk at Harns Marsh Elementary and Middle in Lehigh Acres. She also presented a list of schools that she stated contain hazardous walking conditions which could be potential projects for SRTS funds. A Gladiolus/Winkler project was suggested but the committee determined that there is a newer path there. Next, a project on Littleton Road was suggested but ditches and right of way constraints may make it unfeasible. A Lehigh Acres project at Mirror Lakes Elementary involving two small bridges was discussed and would need two sidewalks which might be expensive. There was another project involving a bridge around Coolidge and Lee Boulevard in Lehigh with segments involved in a current project. The final project, another bridge, in Cape Coral along the south side of Veterans involves five schools and adding sidewalks near the bridge but may be a current/proposed Cape Coral City project.

Agenda Item #4 - John Hopkins All Children's School SRTS Community Program Update

Mr. Marinack stated that the SRTS Community Program led by the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital instructs parents, children, educators, and administrators on how to improve bicycling and walking routes to and from school through Pedestrian and Bike Safety Curriculum, Walking School Bus, Bike Rodeo, Community Events, International Walk to School Day, and National Bike to School Day. They primarily work with K-5 but have a small program for 6th grade and middle schools as well. They work with the school PE teachers in conjunction with the Sunshine Standards which include bicycle and pedestrian safety. Last year they serviced 8 counties and this year they have 16 counties with the same personnel. They are grant funded through the state.

Agenda Item #5 - TIGER and Other MPO Project Updates/Developments

Mr. Scott provided an update on the TIGER project. Colonial shared use path is completed. Drainage work is going on in Daniels Parkway and a second bridge is being installed. Eighty-nine percent of contract time lapsed with eighty-two percent of the money spent. Tiger wayfinding working group met about two weeks ago and the next step is to determine signage costs and maintenance agreements.

There was also discussion about the video/pictures taken for publicity and drones used for filming. The MPO Roundabout Study completed the 30% design plans for the Sanibel Causeway/Periwinkle and McGregor Boulevard/Colonial intersections. Cape Coral Bike Ped Master Plan final plan will be presented in late fall to City Council. Jacobs and Alta were selected for doing the Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan.

Agenda Item #6 - Local Government Reports on Bicycle Pedestrian Related Projects

Mr. Gibbons reported that the City of Bonita Springs just approved Bike Ped Master Plan. There are detours on US 41 due to construction on downtown.

Mr. Saxton reported that Estero Parkway negotiations between the Village of Estero and the County was completed. Mr. Karakos felt that the Village should push developer for a roundabout before Bella Terra at Wild Blue.

Mr. Getch asked that the committee bylaws be amended to reflect that the Lee County Community Development be added to the membership in place of LCDOT. Request made to be added to next meeting agenda.

Mr. Karakos reported that the City of Fort Myers is doing the Edison Avenue realignment. The roundabout at Virginia/McGregor may be moved up to the McGregor drainage project timetable.

Agenda Item #7 - LeeTran Report

None.

Agenda Item #8 - FDOT Report

None

Agenda Item #9 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Ms. Holm announced that a Transportation Summit was being held in Bonita Springs.

Mr. Gogoi reported about a FDOT Complete Streets presentation on October 18th and a workshop the following day. He said he didn't have details on time of day but will get that info to the committee later. He also provided an update on the US41/Six Mile/Gladiolus and how he had pushed for asphalt not concrete shared use path.

Agenda Item #10 - Discussion of a Joint Meeting Date with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The usual time of 10:00 a.m. is still good for the joint meeting.

Topics of SunTrail, Burnt Store, and roads that connect counties together were suggested.

FDOT will make a presentation.

There was a short side discussion on maintenance and planning for future being huge issues now.

Agenda Item #11 – Announcements

None.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.