

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



Meeting Summary

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 beginning at 10:00 p.m. in Room A of the Fort Myers Regional Library, 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

Those in attendance included:

From the BPCC

Andy Getch	Lee County Department of Community Development
Carrie Call	CAC
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
Dave Wheaton	Member-At-Large
Hunter Abel	LeeTran
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-At-Large
Jennifer Hagen	Member-At-Large, Chair
Levi McCollum	LeeTran
Pim Tan	City of Cape Coral
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB)
Tina Sujana	Member-At-Large

Others in attendance included Don Scott and Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; David Agacinski with FDOT; Nancy MacPhee with Lee County VCB; Matt Feeney and Arleen Hunter with the City of Bonita Springs; John De Palma with McMahon Associates; Sarah Clark with AIM Engineering; and Fort Myers resident Mike Meeks.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Jennifer Hagen.

The members introduced themselves. There was a quorum.

Agenda Item #1 - *Approval of the February 28, 2017 BPCC Meeting Minutes

Randy Krise made the motion and Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 – Presentation of the City of Bonita Springs Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan

Mr. Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs introduced Mr. John De Palma with McMahon & Associates Inc. who proceeded to give a presentation of the City of Bonita Springs Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. Presentation covered Needs Assessment, Public Involvement, Lighting and Public Safety, Landscaping and Hardscape, and Tool Box of Bike Ped Improvements. Tool Box included such improvements as Bike Lanes, Multi-Use Trail, Separated Bike Path, Intersection/Crossing Treatments, Amenities, and Wayfinding. Potential projects identified in the Plan included a \$935,000 Multi-use Trail on West Terry Street, a \$317,000 Multi-use Trail on either Pauling or Cochran, and a \$1,366,000 Multi-

use Trail on East Terry Street. The City has applied for a Recreational Trail Program grant to fund the West Terry Street Multi-use Trail. The City's CIP includes \$2 million for Multi-use Trail improvements.

Agenda Item #3 - Presentation of the I-75/Colonial Boulevard Interchange Modification

The presentation was deferred to the April 25th BPC meeting.

Agenda Item #4 - Dangerous By Design Report and Update of the MPO Bike Ped Safety Action Plan

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item to provide information on the Dangerous by Design Report that ranked the Cape Coral-Fort Myers Urbanized area the most dangerous place to walk based on their PDI index.

The Dangerous by Design report is put out every two years by Smart Growth America. The most recent report ranked the Cape Coral/Fort Myers area the most dangerous place to walk based on their PDI index. The PDI index takes into account pedestrian fatalities within the urbanized area, population, and the share of local commuters who walk to work. The report was released on January 10th and uses 2005-2014 data. It included 104 urbanized areas.

In the past four to five years, Mr. Scott said the MPO has assisted in constructing sidewalks, pathways, and bike lanes. They have also facilitated planning activities like complete streets resolutions and bike ped master plans. In addition, outreach activities have been instrumental in educating the public. Education, engineering, and enforcement are important.

He also presented updated Bicycle and Pedestrian fatality and injury charts, and a map of all pedestrian fatalities in Lee County from 2006-2014. Mr. Scott noted with respect to fatality causes, 70% occurred at night and 41% were drug/alcohol related. Distracted driving is much more noted recently.

He reported that the MPO will be updating the MPO's Countywide Bike Ped Safety Action Plan soon and that he is working on a scope of services that he will be bringing to all the MPO committees for review and input. He is hopeful that more recent data will be better filled out.

Agenda Item #5 – Discussion on Additional Changes to the Draft Amendment to the Lee Collier Bi-County Regional Pathways Map

Ron Gogoi presented this non-action item on the proposed additional changes to the 2016 Draft Amendment to the Lee Collier Bi-County Regional Pathways Map for committee input.

Mr. Gogoi explained that the BPC had recommended the MPO amend the Lee Collier Bi-County Regional Pathways Map as shown in **Attachment A** of the agenda packet at its September 27, 2016 meeting. Similar recommendations were made by a joint committee of the Lee and Collier Technical Advisory Committee and a joint committee of the Lee and Collier Citizens Advisory Committee at their October 6, 2016 meetings. However, the amendments were not approved by the joint committee of the two MPO Boards when they met on October 21, 2016, due to the controversy surrounding the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) and a lack of a quorum by the Collier MPO. On February 10th this year, the Collier MPO Board adopted Resolution 2017-01 rescinding a 2008 Resolution in support of the ROGG. Resolution 2017-01 directed staff to remove the ROGG alignment on US 41 from the regional map. The MPO staff is now proposing the following additional changes to the draft 2016 map as described below and as shown on the map in **Attachment B** of the agenda packet:

-Deletion of ROGG (shown in X-out)

-Deletion of the Rich Memorial Greenway Trail Extension (shown in X-out) along FPL Right of Way between Radio and canal south of Golden Gate

-Alignment revisions in the Rookery Bay area

Old Business

Agenda Item #6 - TIGER and Other MPO Project Updates/Developments

Mr. Scott provided an update on wayfinding signage and reported that the Cape Coral Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan is now complete. The consultants had provided the final plan to the Cape Coral City Council on March 27th. The City is setting aside \$800,000 annually to address bike ped improvements during the Utility Expansion Program and the Paving Program.

Mr. Gogoi provided a status update on the FMB Bike Ped Master Plan and presented slides from the January 31st and March 27th Project Advisory Committee. Attendance at the first public meeting was very low. He reported that the consultants have not recommended a lot of new design ideas for FMB on the infrastructure side based on Preliminary Bikeways and Walkways Maps. Following are a summary of comments received from members of the BPCC:

- *The consultants should work with LeeTran and provide data for public transit commuting. Beach trolleys provide a significant service in Fort Myers Beach, and the trolleys have historically had good ridership, and therefore when a slide shows 0% for commuting by public transit as zero, it is erroneous and highly misleading*
- *BPCC questioned Slide 14 from the Jan 31st PAC and Feb 15th Public meeting. Permanent resident demographics vs Florida population is not a true reflection of the island character unless seasonal population is plugged in.*
- *On the proposed Bicycle Boulevard/Cultural Loop concept and public opposition to a pathway across the conservation area, it was felt that the consultant should try to present this in a different way. It was suggested that instead of showing any portion of a shared use path deep into the conservation area, there may be more acceptance from residents to a proposal where you keep the shared use path confined only to the edge/perimeter of the conservation area.*
- *Committee members agreed that the consultants have not recommended a lot of new design ideas for FMB on the infrastructure side based on Preliminary Bikeways and Sidewalks Maps. They also agreed that gap analysis should be conducted to determine bike ped infrastructure at major east west roads to come up with a bike ped network. It was suggested that consultants could use walk scores for different east west roadways from walkscore.com to help in infrastructure recommendation during the gap analysis exercise.*

Agenda Item #7 - Local Government Updates on Bicycle Pedestrian Related Projects

None.

Agenda Item #8 - LeeTran Report

Mr. McCollum introduced Hunter Abel and reported that he has been assigned as the primary member representing LeeTran at the BPCC meetings.

Agenda Item #9 - FDOT Report

Mr. Agacinski stated that he is the new District 1 Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, and he reported that the City of Bonita Springs submitted a Recreational Trail Program grant application for a Multi-Use Trail on West Terry Street.

Agenda Item #10 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. Mike Meeks expressed his objections to comments made by the BPCC on the Fort Myers Council vote on the Winkler Canal Pathway project.

Mr. Moser commented on the Florida specialty tags. He added that there are funds generated from the bicycle related tags. He said the House and Senate has bills to do away with all specialty tags except university and pro sports teams. He urged committee members to call their local elected official and let them know this is a bad bill.

Agenda Item #11 – Announcements

Mr. Gogoi spoke briefly on the next BPCC agenda. He said he would bring the draft scopes for Estero and Sanibel for committee review and input. He mentioned a School District request to hold a meeting to review potential SRTS infrastructure projects, and whether it would be ok to meet at 9:00 a.m. the morning prior to the BPCC meeting to discuss these projects with the regular BPCC meeting to follow at 10:30 instead of 10:00 a.m. Mr. Gogoi said he would keep the BPCC agenda small so that the committee could still adjourn at the usual time. Chair Hagen asked if there were any concerns about beginning the regular BPCC meeting at 10:30 a.m. There were none.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

The update to the committee roster was the only information and distribution item.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

Next BPCC MeetingApril 25, 2017

