

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 am, Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239 244 2220



Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC) was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 beginning at 9:58 a.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
Carie Call	Citizen Advisory Committee
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers Engineering
Chelsea O'Riley	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
Dave Wheaton	Member-At-Large
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Hunter Abel	LeeTran
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-At-Large
James Buchanon	Lee County School District
Jennifer Hagen	Member-At-Large, Chair
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Randy Krise	Citizen Advisory Committee
Roman Serrano	Lee County Sherriff's Office
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB)
Syndi Bultman	Lee Health Trauma
Tina Sujana	Member-At-Large

Others in attendance included Don Scott and Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; David Agacinski, D'Juan Harris, Amy Blair, and Justin Reck with FDOT; Ned Baier with Jacobs; and Kayleen Mueller with American Consulting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:58 a.m. by Chair Jennifer Hagen.

The members introduced themselves. There was a quorum.

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

Chair Hagen asked if the BPCC members could recall who made the motion to approve the February 28, 2017 minutes at the last meeting on March 28, 2017. Mr. Krise said he made the motion. Chair Hagen asked if anyone remembered who made the second or if anyone would volunteer to make the second for those minutes. Carl Karakos volunteered to second the February 28, 2017 minutes. With those corrections made, the meeting moved forward.

Sean Gibbons made the motion to approve the March 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Lee Waller seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 – Update on the Lee Collier Bi-County Regional Pathways Map

Ron Gogoi presented this item as an update on the Lee Collier Bi-County Pathways Map as shown in Attachment A of the agenda packet. He said it was not going to be an action item due to issues coming up on the Collier side.

Mr. Gogoi said at the March 28, 2017 BPCC meeting that he presented additional proposed changes to the draft 2016 map following the February 10, 2017 Collier MPO Board meeting as shown below:

- *Deletion of ROGG*
- *Deletion of the Rich Memorial Greenway Trail Extension along FPL Right of Way between Radio and canal south of Golden Gate Parkway*
- *Alignment revisions in the Rookery Bay area*

Subsequently, more changes were made to the map at the request of Collier MPO staff:

- *Oil Well Road from Camp Keais Road to SR 29*
- *SR 29 from Immokalee Drive in the Town of Immokalee to south of US 41 in Everglades City*
- *An inset map of Everglades City expanding the non-motorized network along SR 29, and terminating at the traffic circle by City Hall.*

All the above proposed changes to the Lee Collier Bi-County Pathways Map are shown in Attachment A of the agenda packet.

Mr. Gogoi added that the Collier MPO's Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) met, approved all of the changes, and asked for the line shown for ROGG back in the map. Mr. Gogoi said this was basically going against the direction from the Collier MPO Board. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Scott to comment on the Collier MPO TAC meeting that he had attended the day before. Mr. Scott mentioned there used to be an inset accompanying this map that showed the Gordon River Greenway which the TAC wanted to be restored. He added that the TAC voted to table the approval of the map. The Collier MPO staff also has an upcoming meeting with the Miccosukee to discuss the map. Mr. Scott said he didn't feel the Lee County MPO will be dealing with this until after the joint BPCC/PAC meeting in the fall. Mr. Gogoi agreed with Mr. Scott saying no action will be taken until the joint meetings. Mr. Gogoi commented that without the amendments the map will revert back to the previously approved map from 2014. He said this really didn't impact Lee County. Mr. Scott said to summarize, the map has been more trouble than it is worth lately. A committee member made a comment about the map regarding paved shoulders for cyclists across the state. Mr. Scott said that was the point the PAC was trying to make, improvements to bridges to include paved shoulders, and removal of rumble strips. He said the big picture problem is the original map was a pathways map so anything done for safety does not preclude the fact that it is on the map or not. Mr. Scott commented that keeping it on the map only continues the fight and creates a negative impact. Chair Hagen asked if there were any other questions or comments. She clarified with Mr. Gogoi that this item will be tabled until another meeting. Mr. Gogoi said yes.

Agenda Item #3 - *Review and Approval of the Scopes of the Estero Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and the Sanibel Shared Use Path Master Plan Update

Mr. Gogoi presented this action item for the review and approval of the scopes for the development of the Estero Bike Ped Master Plan and the Update of the City of Sanibel Shared Use Path Master Plan, both attached to the agenda packet. He said this item had already been taken to the TAC and CAC for review and input. He mentioned they have received emails from BikeWalkLee and a CAC member.

He stated staff usually follows a generic template for Bike Ped Plan scopes. He added that what was provided for the Village of Estero is no different than the scopes for the Town of Fort Myers Beach and Cape Coral Bike Ped Master Plans. And then they would address unique characteristics of the community to the scope. He said in the case of the Village of Estero, they have included previously completed traffic studies to be taken into account. He said they coordinated with the Village staff and the BPCC member from the Village. The issue raised by BikeWalkLee was there is typically an advisory committee. Mr. Gogoi said the MPO does not call out who the stakeholders will be. Mr. Gogoi also said there will be more presentations at the request of Village staff. Mr. Gogoi said they would be happy to include any additional input. He added that he was hoping the BPCC was satisfied with the scopes so they could be approved.

Mr. Saxton asked for clarifications on the RFP process and the consultant that will be picked and the role of the BPCC. Mr. Gogoi stated that the MPO will advertise the RFP. Then there will be a selection process with members of the MPO committees, staff from the MPO, and staff from the Village part of a selection committee to choose the consultant. Mr. Saxton expressed the concern that some people want nothing to do with bikes on the road. Mr. Gogoi said he thinks they should have two or three members from the BPCC on the selection committee. Mr. Scott said they can come back at the point of selection committee for approval for both. Mr. Krise said this is to make sure cyclists are safe on the existing roads. Mr. Scott added that safety is a big part of this. Mr. Saxton asked who will select who is on the committee. Mr. Gogoi said it will be up to MPO staff and the Village. Mr. Scott said they are mirroring the Cape process. Mr. Saxton asked if the meetings will be closed or open to the public. Mr. Gogoi and Mr. Scott said they will be open to the public. A committee member had a concern about the process. Mr. Gogoi explained that the public will be involved from the very beginning and throughout the development of the plan. He also said LeeTran and FDOT will be involved. He added BikeWalkLee and any other special interest groups from the Village of Estero will be involved. Mr. Saxton asked how much influence the MPO had on slowing down the Village of Estero on Estero Parkway since they haven't determined goals and objectives via the Bike Ped Master Plan. Mr. Scott said the MPO doesn't have control over the local projects. Mr. Saxton was concerned that the Village hadn't been educated on what the bike laws are. He commented that the repaving of Estero Parkway would be the perfect opportunity to add bike lanes. He felt they don't listen when he speaks at council meetings. Mr. Scott asked if the resurfacing and the pathway were all one project. Mr. Saxton said the pathway and repaving may be the same project. He also said there is landscaping they would like as a separate project. He felt they could use landscaping as traffic calming and didn't know why it would be a separate project. Mr. Scott says on the contracting side, FDOT separates landscaping projects because they don't want the construction companies doing landscaping. Mr. Saxton said they just wanted one plan for the design of the road. He said projects could be separated after that. Mr. Gogoi asked if there were any other comments. He said he would like to talk about the City of Sanibel scope before there was any action on the item.

Mr. Gogoi said the City of Sanibel provided a project outline because they already have a shared use master plan. He said MPO staff reviewed and changed the format so it was consistent with the typical MPO scope format. Mr. Gogoi said they also included Bike Ped Safety Action Plan components and language. He said the CAC member from Sanibel had provided comments that were addressed including having bike counts/surveys, evaluating/repairing the existing pathways, and adding a funding mechanism for maintenance. There was a discussion on the wording of the scope that made it optional for the City to use a project advisory committee (PAC). Mr. Moser said there should at least be a snapshot of the pathway condition included in the scope. Mr. Scott said the condition of the pathways will be noticed during the bike counts. A committee member asked if Sanibel or Estero had Bike Ped Committees. Ms. Kirkland said Sanibel has a bike club. Mr. Gogoi said he will add language to make a PAC mandatory and to take inventory of maintenance concerns during data collection. There was a brief discussion about latent demand. Another discussion followed on changing the name of the Estero plan. At the end of the discussion, Mr. Gogoi concluded that it didn't matter what the plan was named as long as it achieved the desired goal. Chair Hagen asked if the committee felt there could be a motion to approve the plans.

Mr. Krise made a motion to approve the plans as amended. David Wagley seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - Presentation of the I-75/Colonial Boulevard Interchange Modification Project

Justin Reck with FDOT introduced this non-action item presentation of the I-75/Colonial Interchange Modification Project. The construction and right-of-way acquisition phases are funded in FY 2019/2020. The design phase is currently under way. The design calls for a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) at the I-75/Colonial interchange, a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) at the Colonial and Six Mile Cypress Parkway Intersection, and a Super Street at the intersection of Colonial Boulevard and Forum Boulevard to meet existing and future travel demand in the corridor. He then introduced Kayleen Mueller with American Consulting to give the presentation. Ms. Mueller began her power point presentation with a description of the project limits. She said the purpose of this presentation is to brief the committee before the public hearing. She continued by discussing the existing conditions. She said the project need is based on current and projected traffic. She explained the proposed improvements consist of a CFI, a DDI, and a Super Street. She further explained each of these improvements. There was a brief discussion on crossing Colonial in these designs. Ms. Mueller said there was fencing to prevent people from crossing illegally. She continued her presentation explaining the Super Street intersection. She said there will be seven foot buffered bike lanes, pedestrian signals, and continuous eight foot sidewalks throughout. She commented that the right of way acquisition will involve 1.84 acres. She added the construction cost is \$45 million. It will be updated as the design progresses. She said the design is currently under way, right of way is set to begin in 2017, and the project will commence in late 2019. She concluded her presentation by informing the committee that Justin Reck and Zachary Burch are the FDOT contacts for this project. She asked if there were any questions. Mr. Gogoi asked about the project limits for the CFI going west. Ms. Mueller said just beyond where the trail connects and then tapering back to existing. A committee member asked about how adding asphalt would impact the lanes under the overpass. Ms. Mueller said it is just a different configuration. She continued that one of the reasons the DDI was selected is it salvages the existing bridges. She added this was also the reason the project cost was lower. Mr. Scott said the MPO Long Range Plan had the project estimated at \$90 million. A committee member asked feedback from pedestrians and cyclists navigating a CFI. Ms. Mueller said it is positive. The committee member asked about feedback from the disabled community. Ms. Mueller said she did not have a specific answer on that. She said there have been improvements wherever they have been including less crashes and fatalities. Mr. Reck added there are no longer conflicts at ramps. The discussion continued about the learning curve for these intersections for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Mr. Gogoi asked Ms. Mueller about the timing for this project and the Ortiz project. Ms. Mueller said the CFI should be completed just about the time the Ortiz project begins. Mr. Karakos asked how much right of way will be taken from the golf course that is currently being redone. Ms. Mueller said it will be 20-30 feet. Mr. Reck added they are working with the City.

Old Business

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

Officer Serrano with the Lee County Sheriff's Office announced they received the High Visibility Enforcement Grant again. He said they started four weeks ago with education, they will move into warnings, and then enforcement. He added he will present again when they have better numbers. Chair Hagen asked if they will do anything for Bike to School Day on May 10. Mr. Serrano said he wasn't sure. He said he would check with the sergeant in charge of that.

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

Mr. Gogoi introduced Mr. Baier with Jacobs to give an update on the Fort Myers Beach Bike Ped Master Plan. Mr. Baier introduced Chelsea O'Riley from Fort Myers Beach. He said Jacobs is familiar with MPO scopes as they also just did the Cape Coral Bike Ped Master Plan. He mentioned the PAC. He

said they have a good mix of people and have worked hard on the plan. He talked about the Estero Boulevard project and working that into the plan. He said they considered the Town's adopted Comprehensive Plan. He added they also considered SunTrail. He showed a slide of Fort Myers Beach including the road network. He showed slides of existing sidewalks and bikeways. He said they also looked at attraction points on the beach. He explained walk scores and bike scores saying that Fort Myers Beach scored a 48 out of 100. He showed a slide of crash statistics and one on population demographics. He discussed transit on Fort Myers Beach. He explained the public involvement including the use of the interactive WikiMap. He showed some public comments they had received. He mentioned types of improvements the committee had discussed. Mr. Baier said Alta is currently discussing an option with FHWA that separates cyclists and pedestrians on the same sidewalk with pavement markings. Mr. Karakos asked if that would be a one way. Mr. Baier said it would not be. Mr. Karakos suggested markings that would indicate it is two way traffic. Mr. Baier said most of the Town does not really want sidewalks. He said they are trying to provide connectivity. Mr. Karakos asked the width of the sharrows lane. Mr. Baier said 10 or 11 feet. He showed some design concepts that could be used on Crescent or Connecticut. He continued that he worked with County staff regarding crosswalks. He discussed some options/recommendations that could be used for crossing areas. He said they made recommendations to the Estero Boulevard Project Manager. Mr. Karakos asked if there was that much room in Estero Boulevard. Mr. Baier said in certain areas there are. A brief discussion followed on the width of the road and the speed limit. Mr. Baier talked about the options of placing the bike path along the preserve or through the preserve. He discussed the current projects going on along Fort Myers Beach. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the Coastal Loop and SunTrail. There was a discussion on the locations of the bike lanes, sharrows, and sidewalks. Mr. Baier suggested the Town should aspire to gain bike and pedestrian friendly designations. He said they also recommended setting aside a funding source for maintenance. He announced that on the following day, April 26, the PAC will hold a meeting in the morning. He said there will also be a public workshop in the evening. Mr. Karakos asked who is submitting comments, visitors or owners. Ms. O'Riley said there have been some from seasonal residents who own properties. A brief discussion followed on the impacts of tourism on Fort Myers Beach. Ms. O'Riley mentioned the current storm-water project. She said this may cause residents to be hesitant about additional construction. Mr. Baier said the seeds for this study were planted a while ago. Mr. Scott said it started when Mr. Raymond was Chair of the MPO Board. Mr. Scott said Mr. Raymond said the Town of Fort Myers Beach needed more money. Mr. Baier mentioned that Councilman Butcher has been helpful. Chair Hagen asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

MPO staff provided updates of MPO projects and new developments. Mr. Scott said the TIGER change order was signed that morning. He said FHWA had signed it the previous day. He said the completion of the Wayfinding signs is targeted for November. He added they are still working on some punch list items for the original project.

Mr. Scott said they have been talking with Hendry County and Palm Beach County about an east west connection. They would like to have the corridor along SR 80 raised to a high priority trail for funding. Mr. Scott said there were discussions about the possibility of using Babcock and also land opportunity trails. He said as part of the coordination with Office of Greenways and Trails there will be public meetings. He added the final deadline is sometime in the fall. He said the MPO will try to have it done by June. Mr. Scott said they received a map from Tallahassee that showed the connection. He mentioned that he had conversations with Tallahassee. He said they informed him they are only focusing on one north south trail. Mr. Gogoi added that they moved it to the Coastal Loop.

Mr. Scott mentioned the feasibility study for Downtown Fort Myers from Littleton Road to Hanson Street. He said the Governor's office called about it. There was a brief discussion that followed about the rail corridor and funding. Mr. Gogoi provided an update on the locations of the bike boxes. Staff is pushing for two stage turn boxes and that the County was also on board.

Agenda Item #7 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Abel with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said ridership was down 1% from March last year. He also said they had a Regional Try Transit Day last Friday. He announced the seasonal service ends Thursday. Mr. Scott asked how the Park and Ride project was progressing. Mr. Abel said it is expected to be completed before this coming season.

Agenda Item #8 - FDOT Report

David Agacinski with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He mentioned the March 30th meeting regarding Gulf Coast Trail Working Group Meeting that included representatives from seven counties. He commented on the tour that he took of the proposed Coastal Loop with Mr. Gogoi and Christine Small with Florida Trails. He also reported on the meeting involving FDOT, Lee MPO and Hendry County staff to discuss the East West Priority Trail Corridor options. He announced the external draft of the Complete Streets Handbook was due out that day. Mr. Gogoi said Ms. Small and Mr. Agacinski liked downtown Bonita Springs, especially the concept of using existing elements and the rail corridor to the SUN Trail.

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

There were no public comments. There were no member comments.

Agenda Item #10 - Announcements

Chair Hagen commented that May 10th was Bike to School Day.

Sean Gibbons announced that May 20th will be Bike Ped Day for the City of Bonita Springs beginning at 9:30 a.m. He invited the committee to attend the event.

Salli Kirkland with Sanibel announced they have traffic cams at five different locations with a downloadable app.

Mr. Gogoi announced the next BPCC meeting doesn't begin until 10:30 a.m. He invited the committee to attend the 9:00 a.m. Safe Routes to School meeting on the same day/same location.

Agenda Item # 11 - Information and Distribution Items

The motion to adjourn meeting was made by Carl Karakos. The motion was seconded by Simone Behr. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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