

**BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

10:00 a.m., September 26, 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, September 26, 2017 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room A of the Fort Myers Regional Library, 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dan Moser at 10:00 a.m.

The members introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

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
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
Gladys Gonzalez	Lee County School District Transportation Services
Hunter Abel	LeeTran
Jason Lamey	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma
Pim Tan	City of Cape Coral
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; David Agacinski with FDOT; Jodi Walborn with Safe Routes to School; Cassie Aviles-Gomez, intern with the Lee County Department of Community Development; and Christopher Pierce.

Agenda Item #1 and #2 - *Approval of the June 27, 2017 BPCC Meeting Minutes and the August 22, 2017 Joint BPCC - PAC Minutes

Mr. Mark Tesoro made the motion to approve the June 27, 2017 BPCC Minutes and the August 22, 2017 Joint BPCC-PAC Minutes. Mr. David Wagley seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #3 - Discussion on the Priority Trails Map Update and Transmittal of Comments to FDEP

Mr. Ron Gogoi introduced this non-action item on the FDEP Draft Priority Trails Map Update involving Lee County and comments that need to be transmitted to FDEP. He mentioned the emails sent to all the MPO advisory committees asking the members to fill a comment sheet asking OGT Council and staff to restore the Seminole Gulf Railroad (SGLR) ROW alignment in the Southern Region Draft Priority Trail Map. He showed FDEP's Final Draft Priority Trails Map for the Southern Region,

that was attached to the agenda packet and also located at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS_Plan/Maps/Southern%20Region%20-%20DRAFT%20Updates.pdf and called out the changes as it applied to Lee County. He said the Seminole Gulf Railroad (SGLR) alignment has been removed from the Draft Map by FDEP. This is in direct conflict to language in the Lee MPO Board resolution, Attachment B of the agenda packet, adopted in February 17, 2017 which had urged the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to **(1) add the proposed Coastal Loop to the Priority Trails Map while (2) maintaining the SGLR Right of Way** as the primary spine for the Southwest Coast Connector (aka Gulf Coast Trail) in Lee County, and thereby continuing to maintain that alignment in the Priority Trails Map. Mr. Don Scott commented that originally there were not supposed to be many priority trails added, but across the state there was a lot of mileage added for priority trails. A committee member asked if a final decision had been made. Mr. Scott said the comment period hasn't closed, and noted the public meetings had been postponed due to Hurricane Irma. Mr. Gogoi added the comment period is open through the end of December. Mr. Gogoi continued that it must be made clear that this is still a priority, especially for Bonita and the Village of Estero, since it is included in the comprehensive plans and the plans of the local governments. Mr. Gogoi asked the committee to submit comments and copy Brian Smith, Chair of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council. Vice-Chair Moser asked if another resolution would be helpful. Mr. Gogoi said the one in February was sufficient, but a letter could be sent from the BPCC in addition to the individual comments. Mr. Scott said it would be appreciated if committee members attended the meetings when they are re-scheduled. There was a brief discussion on deciphering the maps from the different regions and the new trails added throughout the state. Mr. Gogoi concluded that staff would draft a letter to be signed by the BPCC Chair.

Agenda Item #4 - Presentation by All Children's Hospital on Assistance Availability for Non-Infrastructure SRTS Program

Ms. Jodi Walborn, Community Educator for Safe Routes to School Region 2 at John Hopkins All Children's Hospital, presented this non-action item on assistance available for schools and organizations to undertake non-infrastructure SRTS activities. She provided a background on the role of All Children's Hospital in the Florida Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program and explained her role as the Community Educator here in Southwest Florida. She commented that the SRTS Program at All Children's Hospital provides assistance to schools, school districts, local governments, and other non-profit organizations regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety. She noted the program is funded by FDOT and administered through the University of Florida. She said her community engagement efforts include bike rodeos, presentations, walking audits, student travel tally reports, parent survey report, educational activities like games/videos/lecture, grants, and teacher education programs including helmet fitting training. She explained due to reduction in staff, the focus has shifted to training teachers to educate students. She also spoke about the growth of the program and the type of education provided at each grade level. Ms. Walborn announced Walk to School Day was October 4, 2017. She informed the committee that every county has been given a trailer that includes supplies to successfully teach bicycle and pedestrian safety. She noted Lee County's trailer is owned and maintained by the School District. She added that she also helps maintain the bicycles and stocks the trailers. She discussed the importance of education for children as it establishes good habits that are carried along with them. She also commented on the numerous benefits of physical activity. She discussed the use of gliders instead of bicycles with training wheels. She concluded by stating their goals are reaching the greatest amount of people on bicycle and pedestrian safety. A committee member asked about scheduling teacher training with Lee County. Ms. Walborn said she is working on it. She urged the committee members to reach out to the schools in their area and make sure they have bicycle and pedestrian safety programs. She said she would assist in providing the necessary supplies if they do not have a program in place. A committee member asked about gliders. Ms. Walborn said they are bicycles without crank sets or pedals. A brief discussion followed on the benefits of the use of gliders. A committee member asked if training would also be provided to parents. Ms. Walborn said they do community events where everyone is welcome.

Agenda Item #5 - Discussion on Automated Vehicles and Connected Vehicle, Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Mr. Don Scott presented this non action item on the impact of autonomous and connected vehicles on mobility for pedestrians and cyclists. He began by explaining that lately there has been considerable movement in autonomous and connected vehicle technology in the US and globally. He continued that there has been some discussion on how this technology is going to affect the mobility of pedestrians and bicyclists. He said his presentation would cover a brief history, some of the related issues, explain this in relation to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process, and elaborate on the impact on gas tax revenue. Mr. Scott then explained levels of automation among the new vehicles and different technologies used. He discussed the idea of an autonomous vehicle only roadway, questioning how it would be funded as there is currently not enough funding for existing roadway construction and maintenance. He noted that many of these vehicles require roadway striping that is currently not on the majority of our roads. He listed potential benefits such as safety, fuel efficiency, congestion reduction, accessibility, convenience, no road rage, and consistent speeds. Mr. Scott then reviewed autonomous vehicle projections. He said some of the issues would be deployment, legal, liability, licensing, security, insurance, cyberattacks, vehicle cost, public fears, weather influence on sensors, interactions with bicycles and pedestrians, cost of implementing infrastructure needed, and reduced transportation funding. He also mentioned there would be specific issues with autonomous vehicles related to bicycles and pedestrians like detection, unpredictability of movements, vehicle to bicycle communication, different regulations in different areas, congestion in zones for drop off and pick up, increased issues for mixed fleet, distractions, change in travel behavior, vehicle miles traveled, decrease in revenues, and the rush to market. He then discussed survey results, projections/models, recent auto related announcements, and revenue impacts/changes. Lastly, Mr. Scott reviewed the LRTP updates. He discussed infrastructure technology, new requirements from FHWA, the FDOT study on the absorption rate, and impact of projections on funding. Mr. Scott opened the floor for questions and comments. Christopher Pierce said his job is to take auto claims, and he has seen an increase in claims from drivers relying on sensors instead of their eyes. A brief discussion followed on issues with the use of sensors and other new technologies.

Old Business

Agenda Item #6 - MPO Project Updates and other Developments

Mr. Scott said final plans are being reviewed for putting signs up as part of the TIGER project. He announced the MPO will be travelling to Orlando in two weeks as our TIGER project was one of the projects listed for a design/build project of the year award. Mr. Scott said the full authorization hasn't been received for the Bike Ped Safety Action Plan. He asked if there would be someone from the committee interested in sitting on the GPC review group. Mr. Dan Moser said he would.

Mr. Gogoi gave an update on the Able Canal PD&E study. He gave a brief history of the project and related issues. He said FDOT is arranging a meeting with the MPO, Lee County Parks and Recreation, and Lehigh Acres Municipal Services District to discuss the results of the PD&E before they present the results to any of the committees. Vice Chair Moser asked who the consultant for the project was. Mr. Gogoi said he would send the information.

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

Mr. Jason Lamey with Lee County Parks and Recreation announced they are working on cleaning up and re-opening parks post hurricane.

Mr. David Wagley with Lee County Department of Community Development discussed a map of five projects in the Lee County DOT CIP scheduled for construction in the next fiscal year which begins October 1, 2017. He discussed each project.

Ms. Pim Tan with the City of Cape Coral announced they are continuing to construct sidewalks with a SunTrail project on Kismet selection committee meeting later in the day.

Mr. Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers announced that the two bike trail feasibility projects have started, Winkler Canal and JYLP. He also noted the beginning of the New Edison Avenue realignment project that might include two new roundabouts.

Mr. Gogoi asked Ms. Tan to inform the committee of the names of the three consultants shortlisted for the SunTrail/Kismet project. She said they were Johnson Engineering, CPH, and VHB. Mr. Scott asked how many consultants submitted proposals. Ms. Tan replied there were seven.

Mr. Sean Gibbons with the City of Bonita Springs said they are in the process of revising Chapter Three which contains Complete Streets and zoning verbiage. He mentioned the Seminole Gulf right of way issues and asked the committee to continue with comments. He thanked those who had reached out to the City of Bonita Springs after the hurricane. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Gibbons to give an update on the West Terry shared use path. Mr. Gibbons did not have an update, but he confirmed that Alta was the consultant on the project.

Ms. Salli Kirkland with the City of Sanibel said they were working on cleaning up the bike paths post hurricane as they were closed temporarily.

Mr. Moser asked the municipalities to prioritize the clearing of the sidewalks along busy roads, like Palm Beach and McGregor, first.

Agenda Item #8 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Hunter Abel with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said LeeTran saw a three percent decrease in ridership for August. He added that due to Hurricane Irma, September ridership will be greatly impacted with an expected decrease of 40-45%. He said there were 12 days of service effected. He noted there are still issues with riders being able to access the bus stops due to sidewalk blockage. He added he will be travelling to the City of Bonita Springs on Friday to assess Route 150 that is still on detour due to flooding. There was a brief discussion on the flooding in the Bonita area and the use of Google Earth to view it.

Agenda Item #9 - FDOT Report

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He announced the September 19, 2017 Complete Streets Workshop was cancelled due to the hurricane. He did not have a new date for the meeting, but will let the committee know when it is rescheduled. He commented on the June 27, 2017 BPC meeting, addressing a written complaint presented to the committee from Mr. Christopher Pierce, a public citizen, regarding the SR 78/ BUS 41 intersection in North Fort Myers. Mr. Agacinski said the complaint was that vehicles making right turns at the intersection, particularly those from EB to SB and WB to NB, were not yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk when the crossing interval begins. He added that a sight review was conducted by a member of the FDOT Traffic Operations office to observe and report on the conditions at the intersection. He explained that after a thorough review, it was decided to add some signs at the intersection to enhance pedestrian safety. He commented that specifically, for EB and WB traffic, R10-15R (Turning Vehicles Yield to Pedestrians) signs will be installed on ground mount posts at the intersection, and for NB and SB traffic, W11-2 (Pedestrian Crossing) warning signs will be installed on ground mount posts at and in advance of the channelized right turn lanes. He also handed out copies of the proposed sign installation plan. There was a brief discussion on this intersection. Lastly, he announced the call for SunTrail projects within the next few weeks. He urged the committee members to have the projects prepared. Mr. Gogoi asked about the ongoing updates to the Priority Trail Maps. Mr. Agacinski said to still submit the projects. A committee member asked if there were exact dates. Mr. Agacinski said the opening for applications will be early October and close will be middle of December.

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

Mr. Moser asked Mr. Gogoi to take over the meeting as he needed to leave. Mr. Gogoi accepted.

A committee member thanked LeeTran for hosting EMTs after the storm.

Ms. Simone Behr announced that the Island Hopper Song Festival was currently underway, downtown every night. She said it will move to Fort Myers Beach on Friday.

Mr. Gogoi discussed SunTrail and related projects again. Mr. Agacinski said applications did not need to be re-submitted from 2016 as long as there are no major changes. He also commented that there would be another SunTrail call for projects in a year so any projects not submitted now could be submitted then.

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #11 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

Mr. Agacinski handed out a sketch of the sign placements to be added to the SR 78/ BUS 41 intersection.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Next BPCC Meeting – October 24, 2017

*** Action Items + May Require Action**

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