

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 a.m., November 28, 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, November 28, 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 Chair Jennifer Hagen 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 Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Hunter Abel	LeeTran
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-at-Large
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma
Nena Garrett	Lee County School District Transportation Services
Pim Tan	City of Cape Coral
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau
Syndi Bultman	Lee Health Trauma
Tina Sujana	Member-at-Large

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Allan Makav with the City of Fort Myers; David Agacinski (Lisa Brinson, Robin Birdsong, and D’Juan Harris by conference call) with FDOT; Tammy Darnell with LeeTran; and Jodi Walborn with Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital.

Agenda Item #1 - *Approval of the October 24, 2017 BPCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dan Moser made the motion to approve the October 24, 2017 BPCC Minutes. Mr. Mark Tesoro seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 - FDOT Q&A on Differences between State SUN Trail and Federal LAP Contracts

Mr. Ron Gogoi introduced Ms. Robin Birdsong, Ms. Lisa Brinson, and Mr. D’Juan Harris with FDOT, who were available via teleconference to answer questions to differentiate how a local government managed SUN Trail contract is different from a LAP contract. Mr. Gogoi asked Ms. Birdsong to go

through the questions provided. She went over questions 12 and 11. Ms. Lisa Brinson took over and answered questions 10 and 9 referencing the SUN Trail agreement that was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Carl Karakos questioned invoicing. Ms. Birdsong said it is project specific but no more than monthly. Ms. Brinson continued providing answers to the remaining questions deferring to Ms. Birdsong, the SUN Trail agreement, and SUN Trail FAQ as needed. There were brief discussions on project management/maintenance, feasibility studies and cost estimates, right of ways and easements, and administration. Mr. Gogoi thanked Ms. Brinson, Ms. Birdsong, and Mr. Harris for participating. Mr. Scott asked for clarification on prequalification for projects that were over \$250,000. Mr. Agacinski said the project must be over \$250,000 and in FDOT right of way.

Agenda Item #3 - *Endorsement of the School District SRTS Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi stated that in response to FDOT's call for proposals for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure funds, the School District of Lee County is submitting 3 (three) applications. He noted they have also prioritized the proposals. He added that consistent with the Lee MPO SRTS process, school district priorities will need to be endorsed by the MPO Board before the applications can be signed by MPO staff, and submitted to FDOT. He discussed the following school district priorities and the maps attached to the agenda packet:

Priority #1: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Island Coast High located in Cape Coral. The proposed sidewalks are on both sides of Averill Boulevard from Del Prado Boulevard to Gator Circle South and along the perimeters of South Gator Circle. Cost: \$1,708,516

Maintaining Agency: City of Cape Coral

Priority #2: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Edison Park Elementary located in Fort Myers. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Clifford Street from Edison Avenue to Victoria Street. Cost: \$167,963

Maintaining Agency: City of Fort Myers

Priority #3: The proposal calls for sidewalks that will benefit Bonita Springs Elementary located in Bonita Springs. The proposed sidewalks are on the west side of Shriver Avenue from Dean Street to Ragsdale Street. Cost: \$163,000

Maintaining Agency: City of Bonita Springs

Mr. Karakos brought up the Edison Avenue project and how that might overlap with the proposed sidewalks. There was a brief discussion about the Edison project and related improvements.

Mr. Dan Moser made the recommendation that Bonita Springs Elementary be moved to Priority #1, Island Coast High to #2, and Edison Park Elementary to #3. The committee discussed the amount of students that would be served at each location and the priority selection by the school district. They suggested asking Dawn Huff why the school district chose Island Coast as the first priority. Mr. Gogoi said he would find out but the BPC should still make a recommendation since the applications are due to FDOT by December 31st.

Mr. Dan Moser made the motion to approve the endorsement of the School District SRTS Priorities with Bonita Springs Elementary as the first priority, Island Coast as the second, and Edison Park as the third, based on the information provided at the meeting. Mr. Mark Tesoro seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Gogoi explained that the Lee County School Board directed school district staff to find ways to fund lighting at school bus stops as there are currently issues with insufficient lighting. Ms. Garrett mentioned

the urgent need for lighting in Lehigh Acres. Mr. Gogoi suggested contacting the local utility company, lighting district, or lighting board and making a request for lighting. Mr. Andy Getch mentioned a sidewalk request, along Columbus Boulevard in Lehigh, made at the last BPAC meeting. The committee briefly discussed lighting districts.

Agenda Item #4- Review and Discuss Candidate Projects for TA and Multi-Modal Box Funds for 2018 Funding Cycle

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to review and discuss this year's unfunded priorities for TA and Multimodal Box Funds, and any new candidate project for consideration of these MPO allocated funds for the 2018 funding cycle. He showed slides of the TA and Multimodal Box Fund priorities from this year, also attached to the agenda packet, with projects funded highlighted in yellow. He asked the committee to review these project priorities, and provide their input whether they would like to resubmit unfunded projects for consideration of TA and Multimodal Box funds in the 2018 funding cycle. Ms. Pim Tan said she would confirm if the 26th Street project could be removed. Mr. Getch said Lee County staff is still evaluating whether they will go through the LAP process or do them as county projects. He said among new project phases that will have to be included in the 2018 priorities for MPO allocated federal funds is the design phase for the SR 78 Pathway from Park 78 Drive to SR 31. He noted the programming of funds for design is necessary for approval of the ongoing PD&E Study. He discussed the Able Canal project and the Bonita Springs projects on the list. He mentioned that MPO allocated funds are not eligible if right-of-way has to be purchased and FDOT would not fund a project if it crosses a railroad. The right of way issues applied to the Pauling and Cochran projects, and the railroad crossing issues applied to both those projects and the West Terry shared use project. In reference to the Estero Boulevard multi use trail, he commented that if a project is eligible for SUN Trail funds, the local agency should apply for those funds, and not MPO allocated federal funds. Mr. Wheaton asked for an explanation of Multi-Modal box funds. Mr. Scott replied it is Federal funding that is set aside specifically for bike ped, traffic operations, and bus replacements. Mr. Getch requested that the County be notified in advance about projects submitted by a municipality on Lee County owned roadways. Mr. Scott said the priorities would be voted on at a later date and this agenda item was to address any issues in advance.

Agenda Item #5 - Report on a Fort Myers Study Identifying Existing School Zones

Mr. Carl Karakos reported that the origins of the Fort Myers Study identifying existing school zones were in a walking audit that led to a consultant being hired to report on school zone signs. The audit identified locations where school zones signs were needed as well as addressed speed zones. The City then contacted FDOT and learned of a program to replace existing signs with flashing beacons. With that in mind, the City of Fort Myers will be doing a study to identify existing school zones at 20 locations. He stated the study will be contracted out soon. He added the City will also follow-up with an evaluation to make sure school zones are in compliance with FDOT criteria. Mr. Gogoi explained FDOT revised their speed zone manual and this facilitated these changes. He added FDOT is giving municipalities five years to comply. The committee discussed the due date for submitting the school zone notification form to FDOT. Mr. Gogoi said he would email the letter and request form to the committee members, and he read the letter to the committee confirming the due submission date of December 31, 2017 for requesting the flashing beacons and accompanying speed signage.

Agenda Item #6A – *Recommendation on Safety Performance Measure Targets

Mr. Don Scott presented this walk on agenda item for the recommendation of the safety performance measure targets. He noted that it was a necessary walk-on item due to time constraints for submitting the performance measures in February since the December BPCC meeting might be cancelled and the next meeting isn't until the end of January. He added FDOT had adopted Zero as the actual target and Florida is the only state to do so. He reviewed the safety performance measures that have to be reported on. He stated the MPO is recommending consistency with FDOT by adopting FDOT's target of zero. Mr. Getch commented that changes will have to be implemented statewide including design

standard changes and traffic regulation changes. Ms. Bultman quoted the slogan as “driving fatalities down to zero.” There was a committee discussion on the differences between Vision Zero and a target of zero. The committee discussed the ambiguity of the terms used in the safety measures. Ms. Bultman commented that there needs to be a systemwide change. The committee continued the discussion on the benefits and issues of adopting a zero target.

Mr. Moser made the motion to approve the endorsement of the recommended target of zero to remain consistent with FDOT’s target. Ms. Syndi Bultman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 – MPOAC Legislative Updates

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item on the MPOAC Legislative Updates. Mr. Scott reported on the most recent legislative proposals that are being put forward on these issues. He discussed legislation including SB 90 that upgrades texting while driving to a primary offense, HB 121 that is similar to SB 90, and SB 384 that incorporates asking the Florida Transportation Commission to report on the revenue impact of electric vehicles when the threshold reaches a certain percentage of registered vehicles. The committee briefly discussed distracted driving. The committee then discussed the legality of electric bicycles on sidewalks.

Old Business

Agenda Item #7 - MPO Project Updates and Other Developments

Mr. Gogoi reported that a third project was added to the SUN Trail priority list, the Estero Boulevard Multi-Trail Feasibility Study project in Bonita Springs. He also discussed a SR 80 project, east of Buckingham, that was among one of the unfunded projects from this year’s priority list for Multi Modal Box funds. This can be applied for SUN Trail funds in the next funding cycle as it will be part of the SUN Trail network then. He added that FDOT maintenance policy now calls for local governments to maintain a 12 foot shared use path built on a state highway. FDOT will only maintain eight foot sidewalks. The committee discussed the existing and proposed sidewalks along SR 80.

Agenda Item #8 - Local Government Updates on Bicycle Pedestrian Related Projects

Mr. Karakos with the City of Fort Myers said they are working on two LAP projects, Winkler Avenue and JYLP Shared Use Path feasibility studies. He added a public meeting will be scheduled in early January.

Ms. Pim Tan with the City of Cape Coral mentioned SUN Trail and the contract negotiations with the consultant regarding the design project for the Van Buren/El Dorado/Kismet Parkway Multi Use Trail.

Mr. Sean Gibbons with the City of Bonita Springs said they are moving forward with their West Terry Street Multi Use Path project, and Alta is the design consultant.

Mr. Andy Getch with Lee County said the Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee made a recommendation on a new priority list for the next fiscal year budget.

Agenda Item #9 - LeeTran Report

Mr. Hunter Abel with LeeTran presented the LeeTran report. He announced LeeTran was just under six percent down for the last fiscal year that just ended in September. He said Hurricane Irma was a contributing factor. He added LeeTran was about three percent down for the month of October. He noted LeeTran has just added service on Route 130 from Edison Mall to Beach Park and Ride as well as beginning free Downtown Trolley service. Mr. Abel said there are two trolley routes, one makes a loop downtown and one makes a loop into North Fort Myers and back to Downtown.

Agenda Item #10 - FDOT Report

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He announced the deadline for SUN Trail applications was about two weeks away. He commented that he has not received any applications to date. He mentioned Steve Walls had retired from FDOT and moved back to Indiana. He said Lawrence Massey is now the Acting Director of the FDOT Southwest Area Office.

Agenda Item #11 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

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

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and/or distribution items.

Chair Hagen asked if the committee would like to cancel the December meeting and postpone any items to the January meeting. The committee agreed to cancel the meeting, unless there are urgent items that need attention, at which time it will be scheduled by MPO staff a week before the regularly scheduled BPCC meeting in December. Mr. Gogoi confirmed and agreed.

Chair Hagen announced the next regularly scheduled meeting is January 23, 2018.

Chair Hagen adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempoc.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.