

MINUTES OF JANUARY 23 WORKSHOP OF JOINT BPC AND BPAB AND MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23 REGULAR BPC MEETING

JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE LEE MPO BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND CITY OF FORT MYERS BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON THE JYLP EXTENSION TRAIL AND WINKLER TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The joint workshop commenced at 10:00 a.m. Those in attendance of the joint workshop included Andy Getch and David Wagley with Lee County Department of Community Development, Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers, Dan Moser with the Injury Prevention Coalition, David Wheaton, Doug Saxton with the Village of Estero, Hunter Abel with LeeTran, Isobel Hitchcock, Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO, Michelle Avola-Reese with Cella Molnar & Associates, David Murphy with Lee County DOT, Ann Pierce, Christopher Pierce, David Agacinski with FDOT, Brian Ruscher with Alta, and Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering.

Ned Baier with Jacobs and Brian Ruscher with Alta presented the various alternatives for both projects after introductions by Carl Karakos, the Project Manager assigned by the City for the two studies. For JYLP extension, the option for a bicycle pedestrian overpass crossing at Colonial was mostly positive. It was felt that an overpass would create a gateway feature for the city as well as create an exercise facility for walkers. However, there were some concerns on the price tag for the overpass when the consultants hazarded a guess it may cost \$5 million to build it. The consultants were asked to scope out the overpass and develop cost estimates that they can share with the public. It was suggested that they also contact Pinellas County for the Pinellas Trail usage data for the purpose of demonstrating how popular a long trail with overpasses and amenities can be and use that as a model for the JYLP Trail.

It was called out that connectivity between the JYLP Trail and the Winkler neighborhood and McGregor Boulevard is a goal and is consistent with adopted bike pedestrian plans. The attendees were receptive to the concept of a shared-use path along Hill Avenue but noted that further study and final analysis would be welcomed. They also asked for a schedule of when the final reports will be presented to City Council and the MPO Board. Some concern was voiced earlier in the workshop that word was not getting out as early as it should be, but the consultant team noted that meeting notification was one-week in advance and consisted of two newspaper advertisements, web-site, social media announcement, and e-mails to media and organizations. To a question on why the land along the eastern side of the canal for the JYLP trail is not being considered for the alignment for better connectivity with the east/west linear trail, the consultants replied that the western side of the canal is far better for the JYLP Trail as there are sufficient right-of-way and no barriers.

LEE MPO BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chair Moser called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. A quorum was present. Those in attendance included:

From the BPC

Andy Getch	Lee County Department of Community Development
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David 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
Jason Green	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Michelle Avola-Reese with Cella Molnar & Associates; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Ann Pierce and Christopher Pierce with the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board; David Agacinski with FDOT; Brian Ruscher with Alta; and Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering.

Because of a lack of time, Mr. Ron Gogoi suggested moving to Agenda Item #5 first and going back to the other items if there were still time. Vice-Chair Moser agreed.

Agenda Item #5 - Town of Fort Myers Beach Transportation Needs

Mr. Gogoi introduced Mr. Jason Green with the Town of Fort Myers Beach. Mr. Gogoi explained that Mr. Green is presenting to fulfill the vetting requirements by the MPO committees necessary before projects could be prioritized for consideration of MPO funds. Mr. Green has already presented the Town's Transportation needs to the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee. He showed a slide presentation on the proposed Time's Square project that includes bicycle pedestrian improvements, lighting improvements, and landscaping. The Town of Fort Myers Beach is looking for ways to make the corridor safer for residents and visitors. A committee member asked if this project was considered before the Phase One improvements to Estero Boulevard. Mr. Green replied the County dealt with their right of way portion and the Town was waiting for the completion of that project. He added the Town had been discussing these improvements for several years. There was a brief discussion about this project with relation to the Estero Boulevard improvements. Mr. Gogoi commented on the possible SUN Trail segment through this area. He added that none of the Estero Boulevard improvements will be disrupted with this new project. Mr. Green clarified that the project would include redoing the sidewalk on the Gulf side which wasn't touched by the Estero project since the drainage improvements only went to the curb. He noted the segment in front of the Lani Kai would be a sort of pilot project to gauge potential success. He mentioned the branding of a color palette for the Town. There was a brief discussion on the location of the new proposed hotel.

Agenda Item #2 - *Approval of the November 28, 2017 BPCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dave Wheaton made the motion to approve the November 28, 2017 BPCC Minutes. Mr. Mark Tesoro seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3- *Election of Officers

Vice-Chair Moser presented this agenda item to call for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that the bylaws allow the current Vice Chair, Mr. Dan Moser, to automatically become the new Chair for the new calendar year if he accepts the position and if there were no objections. Mr. Gogoi said if Mr. Moser accepts the nomination of Chair for 2018, then the committee should call for nominations for a new Vice Chair from among its membership.

There was a discussion as Mr. Gibbons reported that he spoke with Ms. Hagen before the meeting, and she had agreed to be Vice-Chair if she was nominated.

Mr. Sean Gibbons made the motion for Mr. Dan Moser to be Chair and Ms. Jennifer Hagen to be Vice-Chair. Mr. Lee Waller seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - *Amendment of the BPCC Bylaws

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item to review and amend the BPCC Bylaws. He said the BPCC bylaws are being amended to accommodate the Region 2 Community Educator from John Hopkins All Children's Hospital as a non-voting advisory member. Mr. Gogoi mentioned adding new responsibilities including SUN Trail alignments and the MPO Bike Ped Safety Action Plan updates. He noted the bylaws are also being amended by replacing Lee County DOT with Lee County Department of Community Development in the voting membership, due to staff reassignments within Lee County. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Murphy if this was acceptable. Mr. Murphy replied yes, commenting that Lee County was adequately represented. He noted Lee Memorial Health System has been changed to Lee Health and Lee County School District has been changed to the School District of Lee County. He discussed the minor wording changes for the at-large positions. He also mentioned calling for a joint meeting between the Lee MPO BPCC and the Charlotte-County/Punta Gorda BPAC to be held for regional coordination at least once per year. The proposed amendments were attached to the agenda packet. A committee member pointed out a grammatical error. Mr. Gogoi said he would correct it. Mr. Karakos asked if Mr. Makau should be added as alternate. Mr. Gogoi said he has been added. Chair Moser asked for a motion.

Ms. Simone Behr made the motion to approve the amendment to the BPCC Bylaws. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tesoro announced there is a Transportation Symposium called Driving Down Fatalities to focus on bike/ped safety on February 23 from 1:00-4:30 p.m. at Lee Memorial Hospital.

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT provided an update on the SUN Trail applications. FDOT received six applications in District 1, noting that the Bonita's application for a shared use path feasibility study within the Coastal Loop is not eligible as it wasn't on the current approved SUN Trail Network map. Mr. Gogoi said it will be on the updated map and could be resubmitted next cycle. Mr. Gogoi asked about future SUN Trail funding. Mr. Agacinski said Central Office hasn't given information on the next call for projects but it is most likely that FDOT would not call for a funding cycle in 2019. Mr. Karakos asked if this would impact the application for construction funds for the JYLP Trail extension. Mr. Gogoi replied the City should continue on the same schedule for the ongoing feasibility study as a call for projects could come at any time. A brief discussion continued on the JYLP project.

Chair Moser asked if LeeTran had anything to report. Mr. Hunter Abel said he did not have December ridership numbers yet. He announced the Beach Park and Ride is now open with free Wi-Fi and charging stations.

Chair Moser asked if there were any other updates. Mr. Gogoi reported that the left turn bicycle turn boxes at the intersection of Treeline and Daniels will be added during the proposed resurfacing of Daniels Parkway which is scheduled for construction at some point next year. He noted there will be a before study conducted on three specific days in March 2018. Monday, Thursday, and Sunday will be the days monitored. He said he will let the committee know the specific dates when they are released. He also said he would check the baseball schedule to see if there are games or events those days. He said the after study will be conducted once the boxes are installed, sometime in March 2019. A committee member asked how the days were chosen. Mr. Gogoi said he consulted the Caloosa Riders, a local cycling group. A committee member also suggested to check the school calendar. There was no further discussion.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.
Next BPCC Meeting – February 20, 2018**