

**BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

10:00 a.m., March 27, 2018

Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Moser at approximately 10:05 a.m. He asked those present to introduce themselves. There was a quorum. 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
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
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
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; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Ann Pierce with Streets Alive of Southwest Florida; David Agacinski with FDOT; April Bodeman and Roman Serrano with the Lee County Sheriff's Office; James Lear with the Cape Coral Police Department; and Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering.

Agenda Item #1 - *Approval of the January 23, 2018 BPCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dave Wheaton made the motion to approve the January 23, 2018 BPCC Minutes. Mr. Mark Tesoro seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 - Update on Candidate Projects for TA and Multi-Modal Box Funds

Mr. Ron Gogoi provided an update on the candidate projects for the MPO's allocation of federal TA and SU Box funds. He said they will be brought back as priorities at the May meeting. He reviewed the candidate list that was attached to the agenda packet, noting the projects that had some phases already funded would be the highest priorities. He also mentioned some projects did not get any phases funded and had to be resubmitted. He noted the Lee County projects were pulled. He commented on the three new projects on county owned roadways that were originally submitted by the City of Bonita Springs but had been now withdrawn by the City. He briefly discussed the West Terry Street project that would replace the existing sidewalk with a multi-use path. He also mentioned the East Terry Street and Bonita Drive projects. There was a brief discussion on the West Terry project. Mr. Gogoi then reviewed the Times Square project on Fort Myers Beach. He moved on to discuss the roundabout projects. Mr. Don Scott reported on the status of the Caloosahatchee bridge sidewalk project including cost and questions he is submitting to FDOT.

Agenda Item #3 - Proposal for a Pedestrian Overpass on SR 82 at Griffin Boulevard

Mr. Don Scott presented this item on a funding request from the School District of Lee County for a bicycle pedestrian bridge at the intersection of SR 82 and Griffin Boulevard. He said a new high school is proposed on the south east corner of SR 82 and Griffin Boulevard, and a pedestrian bridge would help students from the new high school and Gateway Elementary to safely cross SR 82. He noted construction is currently under way for the six-lane expansion of SR 82. He mentioned the location of the intersection and school site was attached to the agenda packet, along with FDOT's signing and pavement marking plan for the SR 82/Griffin Boulevard intersection. He further explained, of the students expected to enroll in the new school and would also access the elementary school, about 2,979 students live within two miles on the north side of SR 82 and 652 live south of SR 82 within those grade levels. He added the new high school will have a capacity of 2,000 students and the Gateway Elementary has a capacity of 754. He commented the School District will be required to bus the students on the north side due to safety concerns. He said the design plans for the SR 82 widening call for a traffic signal with pedestrian signals and crosswalks at this intersection. He noted the estimate from FDOT was \$4.5 to \$5 million. A committee member asked the cost of the buses to transport the students from the north side. Mr. Scott did not have the estimates but said he could get them. He noted, with the old cost estimates, the School District indicated it would be approximately five or six years before they recouped their costs. There was a brief discussion on pedestrian/cyclist overpasses. Mr. Gogoi noted some of the high school students will be driving and the existing elementary school has been functioning without a pedestrian/cyclist overpass. A committee member suggested a crossing guard. Mr. Scott said he would bring back better figures to the next meeting and the committee could decide then. He also mentioned the maintenance issue with the bridge.

Agenda Item #4 - Update on the High Visibility Enforcement Grant Related Operations

Detective Roman Serrano with the Lee County Sherriff's Office (LCSO) presented the results of the High Visibility Enforcement Bike/Ped Program. He reported that the LCSO received a High Visibility Enforcement Grant for \$25,000 during the last funding cycle. Activities related to the grant commenced on November 14th 2017 and will end on May 14th of 2018. During this time the Traffic Unit conducted several traffic operations which focused on bicycle and pedestrian enforcement. Contact made during the operations (which was a mix of educational, verbal warnings, written warning and Uniform Ticket Citations (UTC)) involved 659 pedestrians, 328 bicyclists and 396 motorists. Total warning issued during the operations included 578 UTCs, 453 written warnings and 352 education contacts.

Mr. Scott asked about the mode and type of faults for which citations were mostly given. Mr. Serrano said there was a mixture of all three types of citations: pedestrian, cyclist, and motor vehicle. He said most were issued to motor vehicles, but their system did not allow them to break out by type.

Agenda Item #5 - Update on Bicycle Turn Boxes at the intersection of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item as an update on activities relating to a 'before' study for the bicycle turn boxes and public outreach efforts to educate the motoring public and the cycling community on the use of these boxes. He showed a video from Salt Lake City, Utah to illustrate the bicycle turn box concept in action. He noted the resurfacing of Daniels Parkway from the I 75 ramps to Treeline Avenue is anticipated to be underway in October of this year. He said as part of the resurfacing, bicycle lanes, key hole lanes, and two stage bicycle turn boxes at all four approaches of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue intersection will be installed around June 2019. Mr. Gogoi added 90% design plans have been completed. He commented that this intersection was chosen due to the fact that a resurfacing project was already planned. There was a brief discussion on how the bicycle boxes work. Mr. Carl Karakos asked about the pilot project status. Mr. Gogoi said the results of this project could be used to influence design standards. There was a brief discussion as to the possible use of this concept in future projects like the super street/continuous flow intersection being planned on Colonial

near the Forum. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the bicycle box planned for Daniels is the first of its kind in Florida. He mentioned the before study, and the development of a flyer to educate the public. He added Waterman Broadcasting has been contacted to develop a video and for airtime after the bicycle boxes are installed. Ms. Ann Pierce asked if an advanced bicycle phase signal was considered. Mr. Gogoi replied no. He mentioned a CAC member asked if signage could be installed. He said FDOT declined that idea as the intersection was too big. Mr. Gogoi said the hope is the flyer and the instructional video will adequately educate the public. Mr. Karakos suggested also educating the officials of the local municipalities.

Agenda Item #6 - Presentation of Walking Audit Results by Students of Dunbar High

Chair Moser reported that the walking audit presentation by students of Dunbar High was deferred to the next BPC meeting, and he moved on to the next item.

Agenda Item #7 - Comprehensive Study of Infrastructure Deficiencies Around School Zones

Mr. Carl Karakos presented this agenda item on the comprehensive study of infrastructure deficiencies around school zones. He reported that the City has submitted a request to FDOT for upgrading the existing reduced speed static signs within school zones so that the City can be compliant with the new FDOT requirements. He is considering doing a comprehensive study of existing infrastructure around some of these schools to identify deficiencies and recommend improvements. The plan would be to work together with the Lee County School District and put some money in the CIP. He would like to start that by doing it for one school as a pilot study which could be Dunbar Middle School.

Agenda Item #8 - Design Update on the Safe Routes to School Projects for Allen Park Elementary and Ray V. Pottorf Elementary

Mr. Karakos reported on the design plans on the proposed sidewalks that the City had developed involving the Allen Park Elementary and Ray V. Pottorf Elementary. He commented that there should be a cost-effective way to build these sidewalks. Chair Moser called out for bigger projects from the locals as part of the MPO priorities than the small projects that are being funded with federal dollars and managed through LAP contracts.

Walk-on Agenda Item – Separated Bicycle Facilities

Ms. Ann Pierce gave this walk-on agenda item presentation on separated bicycle facilities. She showed a Power Point presentation on the effectiveness of such lanes. Her presentation included information on studies and surveys done related to bicycle lane safety. She said the main issue is the difference in speed between the cyclists and the motor vehicles. She also discussed different types of bike lanes like sharrows, green lanes, buffered lanes, separated lanes, and completely off-road facilities. She indicated there was a major reduction in injury and increase in ridership/network use with vertically separated lanes. She showed slides to visually illustrate the types of lanes she was describing. She also discussed ways to make intersections safer for bicycle crossing. She noted these types of lanes can provide cost savings, lessen congestion, and often increase property values. She added the City of Fort Myers has many people that must use bicycles as their sole mode of transportation. She mentioned FDOT's Context Classification and its contribution to designing safer streets for cyclists, especially due to the reduction of speed in certain areas. She also announced the Human Centered Planning Summit on April 19, 2018 and listed the speakers. She invited members of the BPC to attend. She also noted the City of Fort Myers was considering adopting Complete Streets, and it is going before the Planning Board next Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. She closed her presentation with the example of Hanson Street and the reliance of residents on bicycles. She said the planned seven foot bicycle lanes in the Hanson Street Extension may not be appropriate for these daily users. Chair Moser suggested getting elected officials to attend the workshop. Ms. Pierce suggested emailing the elected officials and urging them to attend. There was a brief discussion on educating elected officials and residents.

Old Business

Agenda Item #9 - MPO Project Updates

Mr. Gogoi gave updates on the Village of Estero Bike Ped Master Plan and the Sanibel Shared Use Path Master Plan Update. He reported that the funds are available in July 1, 2108 to commence the projects. He added the Village of Estero chose not to put out an RFP and has already assembled a consultant selection team to choose one of the MPOs general planning consultants under contract. Mr. Gogoi noted the project selection team will meet on May 22, 2018. He said the team consists of Doug Saxton from the BPCC, a member of the CAC, Mary Gibbs, the new Village of Estero Public Works director, and himself. He commented the City of Sanibel also decided to go with one of the consultants from the MPOs consultants under contract, and that they are still working on finalizing the list of questions that will be given to the interested consultants. The responses will be evaluated to help in consultant selection. He also mentioned the City of Fort Myers would like to update their bike ped plan and that a project will be submitted as a MPO priority in June. Mr. Karakos asked about the consultant selection process. Mr. Gogoi responded that the consultant selection team will include City of Fort Myers and MPO staff, a member of the BPCC, and a member of the CAC. The selected consultant will have to be approved by the City Council before the MPO negotiates a work order with the consultant. The project manager will be a City employee. Mr. Karakos asked when the project will get started. Mr. Gogoi said it has to be funded first. A brief discussion followed on funding and how to document the funding in the CIP. Mr. Gogoi then discussed the Able Canal project progress and the four FDOT alternative path options. Mr. Gogoi said the next BPCC meeting will only have a few agenda items, but they will take up a considerable amount of time. He also mentioned the Able Canal Alternative Analysis public workshop that will be held at Veteran's Park.

Agenda Item #10 - Local Government Updates on Bicycle Pedestrian Related Projects

Mr. Karakos said the JYLP and Winkler Canal projects will be presented in a city council workshop on April 2, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering said they will return to council the following month for the consent of adoption or project completion. He added the overall cost for the JYLP project is estimated at just under \$5 million, with the Colonial overpass cost being just under \$2 million. He said the length of the trail is about 1.8 miles of twelve foot shared use path. He added the trail could possibly be funded using SUN Trail. Mr. Karakos commented the estimates might be high. Mr. Gogoi said the project might have to be broken into two phases. There was a discussion that followed on the Winkler project with regard to cost estimates, possible routes, and funding.

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT said the SUN Trail applications in District 1 are still being reviewed with a priority list due to Central Office by April 30, 2018. He said the unfunded portions from the previous cycle must also be included. He added the Cleveland Avenue resurfacing and pedestrian safety project has design complete and will be going out for bids in June with construction to begin around September.

Mr. Doug Saxton with the Village of Estero noted Estero Parkway plans are ongoing with proposals for 10.5 foot travel lanes and 7 foot protected bicycle lanes but no firm decision on shared use paths. Mr. Gogoi asked how much the Village is planning to spend. Mr. Saxton said somewhere between \$6 to \$8 million. He added none of this has been voted on yet.

Ms. Syndi Bultman with Lee Health Trauma announced there would be a Vision Zero meeting tomorrow at Lee Memorial from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to review the results of the first meeting and decide how to proceed. She invited all to attend.

James Lear with Cape Coral Police Department mentioned their High Visibility Enforcement grant from the last funding cycle, and its success.

Agenda Item #11 - LeeTran Report

LeeTran had nothing to report.

Agenda Item #12 - FDOT Report

FDOT had nothing additional to report.

Agenda Item #13 - 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 #14 – Announcements

Chair Moser announced the next BPCC Meeting will be held on April 24, 2018. Mr. Gogoi urged the members to arrive on time for the next meeting as it had a full agenda.

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

*** Action Items + May Require Action**

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@leemppo.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.