

**BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**10:00 a.m., April 24, 2018**

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



**Meeting Minutes**

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**The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Moser at approximately 10:00 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
Bill Corbett	City of Cape Coral
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
Dennis Petracca	Lee County Sheriff's Department
Hunter Abel	LeeTran
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-at-Large
Jason Lamey	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Jeff VanArsdale	Florida Highway Patrol
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau
Tina Sujana	Member-at-Large

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Persides Zambrano and Tessa Heines with the City of Cape Coral; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; David Fender; R. Walters; David Agacinski and D'Juan Harris with FDOT; Dawn Huff and Nancy Crocker with the Lee County School District; Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive; and Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering.

The original agenda was revised prior to the meeting to reflect the postponements of the Able Canal PD&E Study and the Walking Audit presentation by the Dunbar High Students and the addition of a Distracted Driving presentation by Dr. David Fender and a walk-on item for the Lee County School District on Hazardous Walking Conditions.

**Agenda Item #1 - \*Approval of the March 27, 2018 BPCC Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the March 27, 2018 BPCC meeting minutes. Ms. Isobel Hitchcock seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion passed.**

**New Business**

**Agenda Item #2 – Distracted Driver Presentation**

Dr. David Fender, a retired Murray State Occupational Health and Safety professor, gave a slide presentation on distracted driving. He reviewed the factual research and studies conducted on distracted driving. He began with a definition of distracted driving followed by the three categories of

distracted driving: visual, mechanical, and cognitive. He gave a few examples of distracted driving like smoking, eating, drinking, reading, and cell phone use. He reviewed some related statistics, noting the actual rates are most likely higher than the current 18% of distracted drivers reported. He discussed a 1997 naturalistic study done by Virginia Tech that indicated cell phone use increased number of infractions committed as well as stopping distance. He reviewed results of a compilation of other studies that suggest hands free cell phone use isn't any safer than regular cell phone use. Dr. Fender noted studies show that driving while using a cell phone is in some cases worse than driving while intoxicated. He noted those using cell phones increased following distance without realizing. He also reviewed the results of texting while driving studies. He showed a video of a person driving and texting resulting in weaving in the lane. He then discussed the distraction of talking with a passenger while driving. He stated the brain always processes auditory messages before it processes visual messages. He reviewed several other studies related to cell phone use and field of vision reduction and diminished cognitive function. He noted the newer console and control systems in cars also pose a distraction for drivers. He shifted to a discussion on distracted walking and related studies indicating the walkers weaved the same way drivers did, and a large percentage were not aware of their surroundings. He also discussed distracted cycling. He summarized his presentation with a humorous video on a fictional multi-purpose cell phone. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Chair Moser thanked Dr. Fender for his presentation and commented that this presentation confirmed the impact of distracted driving. He questioned how to get this message to those who may not believe distracted driving is an issue.

### **Agenda Item #3 - Bicycle Pedestrian Project Evaluation Results and Preliminary TA and SU Box Fund Priorities**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item on the evaluations of the bicycle pedestrian projects that are being considered for TA and SU funds during this year's funding cycle. Mr. Gogoi began with a discussion on the MPO criteria used in the evaluations, that were also attached to the agenda packet. He noted the tweaks to the criteria shown in blue to make up for changing factors and circumstances like placement on the SUN Trail map, fatalities, right of way, and number of employees. He noted the evaluation scores and rankings have been used towards the determination of preliminary priorities for TA and SU Multi-modal box funds. He then discussed the candidate projects. He said the candidate projects include those projects that have pre-construction phases funded in FDOT's Work Program, projects from last year that didn't get any pre construction phase funded, and the new projects from this year that FDOT is currently determining construction viability and project costs. He added the SR 78 project was the top priority. He commented that unlike previous years, there is a single table of priorities for both funding programs, also attached to the agenda packet. He stated that among the project priorities are two traffic operations improvements, Priorities 5 and 6, which are eligible only for multimodal SU box funds. He discussed the amount of total funding available, \$15 million, and the total cost of all the projects from the list, \$14 million. He said the priorities would come back in June but these preliminary priorities will be handed over to FDOT as the preliminary priorities are due now. Mr. Gogoi asked if there were any questions. Ms. Persides Zambrano asked why the SU funds were so erratic. Mr. Gogoi said in some years they were already used for other projects. Mr. Carl Karakos asked about submitting a project once the Winkler Feasibility study was done. Mr. Gogoi said that would be ok. Chair Moser suggested changing the name to the Carrell study. A committee member asked if a speed limit sign has ever been posted on a multi-use pathway, as it is only 17 miles per hour. Mr. Gogoi said this would be a discussion for another time as it is more of an enforcement issue. Chair Moser asked if the committee could have a presentation on electric bicycles.

### **Agenda Item #4 - Report on the Video Monitoring at the Intersection of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue**

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item as a report on the video monitoring at the intersection of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue. He said the MPO contracted with FTE to monitor conflicts between cyclists and motorists at the intersection of Daniels Parkway and Treeline Avenue through the deployment of video equipment and Monovision traffic data collection system. He commented that this

is being done to get conditions prior to the implementation of bicycle boxes as part of the upcoming resurfacing project. He said the monitoring was conducted on the following days:

*Tuesday, March 6 from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM*

*Wednesday, March 7 from 7:30 AM to 11 AM*

*Sunday, March 11 from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM*

*Saturday, March 17 from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM*

He said the days and the times selected for the video recording coincide with regular rides taken by members of the Calusa Riders Bicycle Club. He stated that these specific days were picked because vehicular traffic was expected to be at its highest in the Daniels Parkway corridor due to the baseball spring training games. He mentioned that Wednesday Panera Ride was cancelled due to rain. He referred to 2 tables in the slide presentation that show the number of cyclists using the intersection on the 4 days during the study hours, and the number of cyclists that made U turns, made left turn movements using the existing left turn lanes, those who did two stage bicycle left turns, and those who rode straight through the intersection. He also showed some video clips. There was some discussion related to the video clips on the actions of the drivers. Mr. Gogoi said this information would be shared with FDOT. He mentioned the tables also include the number of infractions caused by motorists and cyclists while traveling through the intersection. Chair Moser asked if there would be lane markings to indicate the bike boxes. Mr. Gogoi said there would be lines for the bike lanes leading up. He noted that the MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee asked for bike box signage in the approaches to the intersection as suggested in the FHWA Interim Approval Guidance for the two stage bike boxes, but FDOT said the intersection was large for signs to be effective. Chair Moser expressed concern about FDOT's refusal to add signage. Mr. Gogoi showed the FDOT design drawings to the committee. Mr. Gogoi said the bike boxes should be in place by May or June 2019. He said a flyer will be released prior to that and an instructional video after they were in place.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Hazardous Walking Condition Locations and Inspections**

Chair Moser noted this agenda item was added as a walk-on item. He introduced Ms. Dawn Huff with the Lee County School District who proceeded to present this agenda item on the hazardous walking conditions locations and inspections in Lee County. She said the school district is required to provide busing if an area within two miles of the school is deemed to have hazardous walking conditions, and funding is provided for this. She noted some improvements have been made. She discussed the Attorney General's audit and corrective actions that were called for based on the state's criteria. She said the school district will work with all the local governments to address the actions that need to be made. She noted courtesy busing is done in some instances to preserve the safety of students. She discussed funding. Chair Moser mentioned this is tied in with ADA. Ms. Huff agreed. Mr. Andy Getch clarified the ADA requirements did not require construction of a new facility, just compliance of an existing facility. Chair Moser noted the audit is the new element in all of this. Ms. Huff replied yes, noting it is still being determined if the audit will be conducted every three or five years. Chair Moser asked if there was an estimate of costs. Ms. Huff said those numbers have not been calculated yet. Mr. Karakos commented on the three-phase plan he created for the City of Fort Myers that involved coordinating walking audits with Streets Alive, developing priorities, and appropriating funding in a CIP budget. He asked how it would be implemented and how funding will be acquired. Ms. Huff said funding is not the responsibility of the district. She said they would like to set up a committee to address this going forward. Chair Moser commented that the City of Fort Myers Plan is more aggressive. He also noted that Lee County has been very proactive with Safe Routes to Schools. Mr. Gogoi asked Ms. Huff if there was a timeline or tentative schedule for the process. He mentioned the SR 80 shared use path project east of Buckingham hat was removed from this year's priority list. Ms. Huff said the School District will meet internally and then meet with the MPO to set up meetings with the local governments. Mr. Gogoi suggested addressing the conditions on major roadways first. Ms. Huff said there are over 100 areas that have been identified with some having been addressed already. There was a discussion regarding bringing this to Lee County's BPAC and addressing it there. Ms. Huff replied the list is still being created and they will work with the county for the additional required information. Chair Moser

clarified that the state would like documentation that the over 100 areas identified fall under the criteria. A committee member further clarified the regulations related to this process. Mr. Gogoi said there may be several committees, with makeup that may change based on the location of the identified hazardous condition. Chair Moser suggested looking at other audits.

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

This agenda item was again deferred to a later meeting.

### **Old Business**

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

Mr. Gogoi suggested taking the local government updates agenda item before the MPO project update agenda item. He asked Mr. Carl Karakos or Mr. Ned Baier if they would like to give an update on the JYLP project. Mr. Karakos said they are moving forward on the final reports, and they will be breaking the bridge portion out into a separate phase. Mr. Baier added that the City Council workshop conducted for both the JYLP and Winkler projects went well. He said both reports should be completed soon and then taken to a second Council meeting in May. He said they will coordinate with the Lee County Parks representative to also present to the Board of County Commissioners as Lee County is maintaining JYLP. Mr. Gogoi questioned the decision to present to the County. Mr. Baier said this is being done to ensure there is an agreement in place between the County and the City for maintenance of the JYLP Trail. Mr. Gogoi mentioned there had been difficulty in the past getting the County to show interest in maintenance. He suggested this is something that may be best resolved internally before it is taken to the Board. There was a brief discussion on whose responsibility it was to maintain the road, and how similar situations have been dealt with in the past. Chair Moser clarified this was Lee County Parks and Recreation and not Lee County DOT. Mr. Karakos mentioned a meeting with FDOT on a pedestrian/bicycle safety study that would be done in the next phase. Chair Moser asked what this study involved. Mr. Karakos said it was on corridor improvements along SR 80 and a segment of SR 82. Chair Moser asked about the update to the Bike/Ped Safety Action Plan. Mr. Gogoi said it would be starting after July 1, 2018. Mr. David Wagley with Lee County mentioned that segments of Winkler Road and Hancock Parkway will receive new sidewalks this fiscal year. He said in the next fiscal year portions of W. Mariana Avenue, Stringfellow Road, Beacon Manor Drive, Austin Street, and Plaza Drive will receive sidewalks or other types of bicycle/pedestrian treatments. He also provided an update on the Homestead Road widening project in Lehigh Acres. Mr. Sean Gibbons with Bonita Springs discussed the Trail Visioning Study and the plans to be presented to Council on May 2, 2018. He said there would also be a presentation to the MPO committees soon. Mr. Gibbons also mentioned the Smart Growth America award that the City of Bonita Springs received for their downtown 41 project. Mr. Gogoi said there will be a presentation by the City of Bonita Springs on the Trail Visioning Study at the June BPCC meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #9 - LeeTran Report**

Mr. Hunter Abel with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. He said there was a three percent increase in passenger trips for March, noting a busy season on Fort Myers Beach due to the trolleys and the tram. He also mentioned Try Transit Day was Friday, April 20.

#### **Agenda Item #7 - MPO Project Updates**

Lee County Parks and Recreation announced that there would be an Able Canal public meeting at Veteran's Park on May 17, 2018 between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. He said, once constructed, Lee County Parks and Recreation will maintain the roughly six-mile-long shared use path. He noted at the public meeting, the consultant will be gathering feedback on the four different alignments that will be presented for the pathway. He said feedback will also be taken on the FDOT website as well as through

Commissioner Frank Mann's office. Mr. Gogoi said alignments will go before the Board of County Commissioners for their approval of a preferred option. He added that it is a County project, but MPO funds are paying for the PD&E study.

Ms. Simone Behr with the VCB announced the free annual Travel Rally will take place next Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Lakes Park. She said there will be a free tram from the parking lot and free bicycle rentals. She also handed out flyers.

### **Agenda Item #10 - FDOT Report**

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT announced that the SUN Trail prioritization list for the new application cycle will be sent to Tallahassee next Monday. He said there were three projects from Lee County – the construction phase of Kismet from Nelson to Del Prado, Kismet from Del Prado to NE 24<sup>th</sup>, and the Bonita Springs/Estero Rails to Trails Feasibility Study. He noted the Coastal Loop will not be submitted as it is ineligible as it was not on the SUN Trail Network map on December 15. Mr. Gogoi commented that it will be eligible next funding cycle. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Murphy for an update on the Kismet Parkway and Littleton Road realignment. Mr. Murphy said they just entered into a contract for a final design with the City of Cape Coral. Mr. Gogoi asked what the County is doing to support bicycle/pedestrian facilities since this segment is on the SUN Trail. Chair Moser urged the County to plan for these facilities during this stage of property acquisition. There was a brief discussion on this project and the constraints. Mr. Gogoi suggested an eight-foot sidewalk in light of the ROW constraints.

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

There were no public comments.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Announcements**

There were no further announcements.

### **Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items**

The only information and distribution item was the flyer handed out by Ms. Simone Behr on the Travel Rally.

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

**Next BPCC Meeting – May 29, 2018**

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\* Action Items + May Require Action

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