

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 a.m., May 29, 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 10:00 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
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jason Lamey	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Lee Combs	LeeTran
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma
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

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Jennifer Marshall, Katharine Sampson, Steven Andrews, and David Agacinski with FDOT; Kristin Caruso and Chris Coughlin with Scalar Consulting; and Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive.

Agenda Item #1 - *Approval of the April 24, 2018 BPCC Meeting Minutes

Mr. David Wagley proposed "West Marion" be corrected to "West Mariana" under Agenda Item #8 of the April 24, 2018 meeting minutes. He added MPO staff was aware of the correction.

Mr. David Wagley made the motion to approve the April 24, 2018 BPCC meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Mark Tesoro seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 - Able Canal PD&E Study Presentation

FDOT's project manager for the Able Canal PD&E, Mr. Steven Andrews, introduced Ms. Jennifer Marshall and Ms. Katharine Sampson, also with FDOT. He also introduced Kristin Caruso and Chris Coughlin with Scalar Consulting. Mr. Andrews presented a Power Point slide show that included the project limits, purpose and need, funding, pathway design, build alternatives, evaluation matrix, public involvement, study schedule, and contact information. The full Power Point presentation can be found at: http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/435351-1-Able-Canal-BPCC-presentation_r2.pdf Mr. Andrews mentioned that May 29, 2018 will be the last day for comments. He noted that all of the comments will be gathered and addressed, alternatives will be evaluated, and then a public hearing will be held in January/February 2019. He asked if there were any questions. Mr. Carl Karakos asked if any of the matrix values were weighted or strictly based on cost. Ms. Jennifer Marshall responded that numerous impacts are compared like cost, right of way, and environmental. She said with this project, right of way impacts are being given a lot of consideration. A brief discussion followed on the evaluation process. Chair Moser stated the Northern alternative makes obvious sense with relation to cost but is being impeded by the neighborhood residents. Mr. Karakos responded that there needs to be a distinction made in the evaluation process as to what is most important, cost or right of way. Chair Moser brought up the similarity between this project and the Winkler Canal project. Ms. Marshall referenced the Federal process and the way actual impacts are compared. She also noted some of the property in reference is located in the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LAMSID) easement. She acknowledged the Northern alternative

is a cleaner alternative with fewer impacts and lower costs, but public comments must be weighed possibly causing a shift to another alignment. She discussed the NEPA checklist, justifications required, and the necessity to look at all options. Mr. Scott added the MPO asked for alternatives. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the costs estimates are useful tools to compare. Mr. Karakos said the process itself should include a scoring mechanism. Mr. Scott said the end result could be just a portion being constructed. Chair Moser asked about funding. Ms. Marshall said the funding would be federal as it is off system. She reviewed the entire project process again, noting before the project moves forward, Lee County and LAMSID staff will be consulted for approval. Mr. Gogoi asked about the final public hearing in January/February 2019. Ms. Marshall said it would consist of an open house, a brief presentation, and a ten day comment period. Mr. Gogoi asked when it would be taken before the Lee County Board of Commissioners. Ms. Marshall replied there are no actual dates set. Chair Moser asked about the public input at the workshop. Ms. Marshall said the workshop went surprisingly well with concerns being expressed about landscaping and safety. Mr. Gogoi asked what the outcome would be if the Board of Commissioners voted for an alternative other than the recommended preferred alignment. Ms. Marshall responded then there would be a need for further discussion as local buy-in is important. She added there is an effort to be proactive rather than reactive. Mr. Scott mentioned in the end the local jurisdiction will have to approve maintenance. Ms. Marshall said the goal is to secure funding to keep the project moving forward. Mr. Gogoi referred to the next agenda item on priorities and that Able Canal is number two on the list. He said he would use the most conservative design alignment, \$700,000, for the cost estimate. Chair Moser thanked the project team. Mr. Gogoi noted this was not an action item but asked the BPCC to give support for one alternative. Chair Moser asked for an informal endorsement of one or more of the alignments. Mr. Karakos recommended the Northern Alignment as the preferred option to consider. Ms. Simone Behr seconded the recommendation of the Northern Alignment. There were no objections. The informal recommendation passed unanimously. Chair Moser asked about submittal of the comments from the meeting. A project team member responded that the comments must be sent to FDOT via the web form or mail. Mr. Andrews said Chair Moser could send him an email with the BPCC comments summarized. Ms. Marshall thanked the BPCC for the opportunity to present.

Mr. Gogoi asked about the SR 78 project public workshop and if there would be a presentation on SR 78 to the BPCC at their June 2018 meeting. Mr. Andrews said the tentative date for the SR 78 workshop is June 19. Ms. Marshall added there has been some difficulty selecting a date. She said they would like to present, but the June BPCC meeting may be too soon. Mr. Andrews said they will contact Mr. Gogoi when they have a date.

Agenda Item #3 - Approval of TA and SU Funded Priorities

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the TA and SU Multi-modal Box Funded Priorities that were attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He mentioned that he had previously presented the results of the bike ped evaluations and the preliminary priorities for TA and Multi-modal Box funds for committee input at the April BPCC meeting. He indicated the only change to the list that was previously presented is the addition of the Fort Myers Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Update which costs \$125,000. He said this project was recommended as priority 7 and will follow the two traffic operations improvements, Priorities 5 and 6, which are only eligible for multimodal SU box funds. Mr. Karakos asked about the Marsh Avenue project. Mr. Karakos discussed the possible setbacks for the project. Mr. Gogoi said issues could be addressed as part of the design phase. Chair Moser commented that the project shouldn't be sidetracked at this point. Mr. Wagley referenced proximity of the Marsh Avenue project to the Richmond Avenue/Queens Drive Safe Routes to School project that was placed on hold due to drainage and capacity of Palm Beach Boulevard. Mr. Gogoi said to see what happens during the design phase. Chair Moser asked for a motion.

Ms. Jennifer Hagan made the motion to approve the TA and SU funded priorities. Mr. Jason Lamey seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gogoi also discussed the two projects on the roundabout priority list, Buckingham/Gunnery and Winkler/Challenger. A brief discussion followed on the proposed Causeway Boulevard and Periwinkle Way roundabout at Sanibel from the Lee County Roundabout Feasibility Study.

Agenda Item #4 - Update on Federal and State Funded Priorities

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item as an update on the federal and state funded roadway priorities. He noted the list remains much the same as last year. He said he hopes to get further along on the list than last year. He also mentioned discussion with FDOT's District 1 Secretary regarding leftover SU funds allocated to the Lee MPO. He reviewed the priority list including the Big Carlos project, Cape Coral Evacuation study, US 41/ Six Mile Operational Study, and the new US 41/Bonita Beach Road intersection improvement project consistent with a February amendment of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Scott also mentioned the SR 31 project

and the ATMS project. Chair Moser asked about the SR 31 bascule bridge replacement. Mr. Scott gave a brief history and said the new bridge would most likely be a high span. He also mentioned the gas line along the road that has posed a problem in the past and could again. Chair Moser asked if there was an action required or if this was just an informational item. Mr. Scott replied no action was required.

Agenda Item #5 - VCB Update

Ms. Simone Behr with the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) presented this agenda item to highlight the agency's recent bicycle and pedestrian related activities and milestones. She discussed promoting cycling on their social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. She said they also promote cycling and hiking on their website. She showed a short video from their website, <https://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com/discover/on-land/biking-and-hiking>. She mentioned guest experts that contribute articles to the website, including one on cycling written by the BPCC's Isobel Hitchcock. She also discussed the events section of the website that includes cycling events, noting events are easy to upload and can be added for free. She said there are new digital ads that will be out shortly. She added bike maps are also being handed out. Ms. Behr explained several outreach activities including hosting travel writers, hosting individuals with large social media presence, newsletters, participating in Bike Your Park Day, and a vehicle wrap for advertisement. She mentioned that June 21 is National Seashell Day, and the VCB will be hosting an event at the Outrigger on Fort Myers Beach. Mr. Karakos commented on cycling in downtown Fort Myers and asked if any comments/recommendations were made to the VCB about possible improvements. Ms. Behr said she hasn't heard any. Mr. Karakos said that would be useful information to have. There was a brief discussion on shelling at local beaches, especially Sanibel and Captiva. Ms. Syndi Bultman suggested that Mr. Karakos check with the city of Sanford, FL regarding signs for cyclists.

Old Business

Agenda Item #6 - MPO Project Updates

There were no additional MPO project updates.

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

Ms. Pim Tan said the City of Cape Coral continues with its SUN Trail project. Chair Moser asked if it was time to reapply for the Bike Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Ms. Tan replied that Chair Moser would have to contact Ms. Persides Zambrano for that information.

Officer James Lear with the Cape Coral Police Department said they just applied for a \$41,000 bicycle grant through USF for education and enforcement. Chair Moser asked if the grant was through CUTR. Mr. Gogoi said that was the High Visibility Enforcement Grant through USF.

Mr. Sean Gibbons said the City of Bonita Springs just had their bicycle scavenger hunt that was a successful event. He also mentioned Council gave the approval for the West Terry Street shared use path project.

Mr. Karakos announced that on June 4, 2018 the Fort Myers City Council will vote on the two shared use path feasibility studies. He also mentioned the signals will be removed from downtown and replaced with four way stops. He said this will save on maintenance, slow traffic, and make the area more pedestrian friendly. Mr. Gogoi commented that there was a shortfall of \$200,000 for the design of the JYLP Trail Extension project due to the bridge option. He asked Mr. David Agacinski if he would like to comment on this. Mr. Agacinski said as a result of the feasibility study, the City of Fort Myers and the MPO made a request for additional SUN Trail funds to do the design of the pedestrian overpass. He added the request was forwarded to central office and there is a high likelihood that funding may be available due to other jurisdictions returning unused portions of their 2018 SUN Trail funding.

Mr. David Wagley commented that Lee County Human and Veteran Services Department just completed a sidewalk in Palmona Park which connects to North Fort Myers Park. He said they also have upcoming projects to finish a sidewalk in Pine Manor and one block on Danley Drive to connect to a LeeTran bus stop.

Agenda Item #8 - LeeTran Report

Ms. Lee Combs with LeeTran gave the LeeTran report. She said those that are visiting Fort Myers Beach for National Seashell Day can use LeeTran's Park and Ride facility. She noted seasonal service will be wrapping up

soon. She added the Fort Myers Beach tram service was successful, and they will be doing it again next year. She also said the ridership has been slightly higher over the last three months than the same period in 2017, although compared year to date with last year, the ridership is down two percent. She mentioned that LeeTran is seeking to hire a new transportation planner as Mr. Hunter Abel has relocated to MARTA in Atlanta. Chair Moser asked about Mr. Thomas Kanell. Mr. Scott said he moved to Hawaii, but he used to be a LeeTran bus driver not a planner.

Agenda Item #9 - FDOT Report

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT gave the FDOT report. He announced that Mr. Wayne Gaither is the new Southwest Area Office Director.

Agenda Item #10 - 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 #11 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Mr. Gogoi said he had hoped there would be a presentation on SR 78 at the June 26, 2018 meeting but that is now not going to happen. He said the only other agenda items were the presentation by Bonita Springs on the West Terry Street Visioning Study and a possible presentation by the Dunbar High School students on their walking audit. Ms. Diana Giraldo said she could present on the Winkler/Challenger bicycle/pedestrian audit. Mr. Gogoi asked the BPCC if there were other agenda items that the committee could think of, or if the meeting should be cancelled. Chair Moser said the meeting in July is already being cancelled due to the MPO Board not meeting, and the June meeting should not be cancelled. Mr. Gogoi asked for assistance from Chair Moser on determining additional agenda items. Chair Moser said he would help.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included in the packet were the revised BPCC Bylaws and the bubble crash charts.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:23 a.m.

* Action Items + May Require Action

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