

**BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

10:00 a.m., June 26, 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 BPC

Allan Makau	City of Fort Myers
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
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-at-Large
Jodi Walborn	Safe Routes to School
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Tammi Darnell	LeeTran

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Steve Belden and Tony Palermo with the City of Fort Myers; Matt Feeney with the City of Bonita Springs; David Agacinski with FDOT; David Murphy and Tom Marquardt with Lee County DOT; John Majka with Superior Sheds; Reina Estevez with the Lee County School District; Jessica Crane with Blue Zone; and Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive of Southwest Florida.

Agenda Item #1 - *Approval of the May 29, 2018 BPC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dave Wheaton made the motion to approve the May 29, 2018 BPC meeting minutes. Mr. Lee Waller seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed.

Due to technological difficulties in the meeting room, the order of the meeting was slightly changed. Chair Moser decided to take public comment as that did not require any technological support.

Agenda Item #10 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka with Superior Sheds/JPM Ventures referenced the shared use path proposed on SR 80 from Shoreland Drive to Buckingham Road, asking about the reasoning behind the placement on the north side of SR 80. Mr. Scott replied that the project has a shared use pathway planned for both sides of the road. Mr. Scott also mentioned the maintenance discussions and said the project may end up with an 8-foot sidewalk on the south side or whatever matches the current existing sections. Mr. Majka said the existing areas are 8-foot sections. Mr. Gogoi brought up the drainage issues on the north side that would constrain the width of the path from ten feet to eight feet at certain locations. Mr. Majka noted his property on the north side will have 130 feet of adjacent drainage swale filled. He mentioned a convenience store, also on the north side, that will be impacted as well. Mr. Majka also commented that the impacts would be lessened if the pathway was constructed on the south side. Chair Moser said the idea is to have pathways on both sides. Mr. Majka noted he is an advocate of the pathway as it will provide beautification as well as more opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle use.

Chair Moser added it will also help with water management. Mr. Majka questioned the impact of filling 130 feet of swale. Chair Moser noted a successful example on US 41 from the old airport to Daniels that was retrofitted. He informed Mr. Majka that an FDOT representative, Mr. David Agacinski, was present, and he could speak with him further. Mr. Majka commented that how far the right of way goes into the properties along SR 80 is not common knowledge. He also noted that some properties, like his, that front SR 80 do not have additional access from behind. Mr. Majka mentioned that he searched for similar pathways around the state using Google Earth, but he could not find any that were along major highways with heavy business. He said the ones he found were along rivers or by railroads. Chair Moser commented that times have changed and now the push is toward multi/shared-use paths if possible. He again suggested that Mr. Majka speak with Mr. Agacinski after the meeting. Mr. Scott mentioned that Mr. Majka previously met with Mr. Zachary Burch from FDOT, and they are setting up a meeting with Mr. John Kubler, also from FDOT, to discuss the driveway issue. Mr. Scott said there are also maintenance issues that can't be answered today but are being worked on. Mr. Agacinski asked if there was a PD&E done on the project. Mr. Scott said no. He added that on SR 78 the PD&E was done because of anticipated right of way and drainage issues, but there turned out to be no right of way necessary. He said for SR 80, the project fits within existing right of way so a PD&E was not necessary. There was a brief discussion about the current cycling conditions on SR 80, and how a pathway would help slow vehicular traffic and possibly generate more business by adding more cyclist and pedestrian traffic. Mr. Scott added that pathways on both sides of the road are safer as deaths occur with crossings. Mr. Majka again referenced his property and the possible impacts that altering his driveways could have. He said he was hoping for some type of resolution at the upcoming meeting with FDOT. He thanked the BPPC for their time.

Chair Moser returned to the original order of the meeting as the technological issues were fixed.

New Business

Agenda Item #2 - Bonita Springs Trail Visioning Study Presentation

Mr. Matt Feeney, Public Works Director for the City of Bonita Springs, presented this agenda item on a trail visioning study in Bonita Springs. He said the project relates to multi-use paths and the Complete Streets approach to one of Bonita's major east/west corridors. He noted the objective of the study is to identify new routes to create a complete and connected trail network in the City and serve as a launching pad for the rest of the City's network. He said the project that was selected was West Terry Street from just east of US 41 to Pine Avenue. He noted this area was selected due to ease of constructability. He discussed the existing conditions, the project progress including a series of public workshops, project area, and the connectivity in Bonita. Mr. Feeney mentioned Bonita was successful in gaining rights to approximately two miles of FP&L power corridor that will open access for several communities in the area. Chair Moser asked what the northern terminus of the power line corridor was. Mr. Feeney said it was at Spring Creek. Mr. Scott asked if there was potential to link this with the rail corridor. Mr. Feeney said it is possible if there is an abundance of public support and input. Mr. Feeney then showed an aerial of the project and further explained the project features. He noted there was public support for pathways and on street facilities. He said this led to the final design of 12- foot pathways on the north side of the road and 5 - foot buffered bike lanes on both sides of the road. He said they are also working with FP&L to move the existing overhead facilities underground, noting this will help with the goal to provide a shaded pathway. He said there are still a few gaps. He then reviewed the use of speed tables, the need to provide crossings, and results of counts from bike/ped counters provided by Blue Zones. He continued his presentation with slides of the area. He said FP&L access must also be maintained. A committee member asked about the speed limit. Mr. Feeney said it will possibly come down to 25 mph, it is currently 30 mph, and people are going about 45 mph through the corridor. Mr. Feeney said more public input is needed. He showed cost estimates for the project, noting they are pursuing federal funding through the BUILD grant. He said they are looking at improving crossing for students. He mentioned the railroad crossing that was being improved. The committee briefly discussed the utilities and drainage of the project. Mr. Carl Karakos asked about incorporating the public in to the vision of Complete Streets, especially with respect to roundabouts. Mr. Feeney said

there were extensive workshops and education of the public. He also said there were champions in the community as well as councilmember support. (The presentation can be viewed at <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/4.8.18-Alta-West-Terry-Presentation.pdf>) Chair Moser thanked Mr. Feeney for his presentation.

Agenda Item #3 - Fort Myers Midtown Vision Plan Overview

Mr. Steve Belden, Community Development Director with the City of Fort Myers, presented this agenda item on the Midtown Vision Plan, a long term conceptual plan for redeveloping the Midtown area of Downtown Fort Myers. Mr. Belden explained the three areas of downtown Fort Myers, the issues being dealt with, and plans to address these issues. He discussed future land use and increased density. He mentioned the Vision Plan for Midtown that was created in conjunction with the University of South Florida (USF) and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) that is expected to serve as the guide for coordinated future growth. He noted it is also expected to provide the framework for private and public investment; and serve as a basis for policy decisions and regulatory revisions. He said there was extensive public input in the process and mentioned some of the results. He then reviewed the development objectives, showed graphics of the plan, and discussed taking down the City of Palms stadium. He called out the conceptual slides of the plan and discussed the connectivity that would be provided. He also mentioned the increased density and gave examples of density of some existing downtown buildings for comparison. The committee briefly discussed building density and height. Mr. Belden concluded his presentation with information on the next steps of the plan (The presentation can be viewed at <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Midtown-presentation-6-26-18.pdf>) Ms. Diana Giraldo said this would be a great opportunity to add shade trees. Mr. Belden said that would be part of the enhancements included in the plan. Mr. Karakos asked about the plans for Evans and Fowler that border the project. Mr. Belden said they will have to work with FDOT in the future. He also mentioned a possible realignment of MLK along Broadway and Edison Avenue to US 41 as a long-term vision. Mr. Karakos asked about the typical roadway sections. Mr. Belden said there would be 10- foot lanes with wide sidewalks, on-street parking, and permeable pavers. Mr. Karakos asked if there had been any discussion with LeeTran. Mr. Belden replied no. Chair Moser referenced Fowler Avenue and the indecision that has plagued progress of that roadway. Mr. Belden noted there are certain things that are out of the City of Fort Myer's control and his focus was on the Midtown Plan. There was a brief discussion that followed on possible futures of Fowler, US 41, and Evans. Chair Moser thanked Mr. Belden for his presentation.

Agenda Item #4 - FDOT Proposal for Funding the Big Carlos Bridge Project

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item as a review of the FDOT proposal for funding the Big Carlos Bridge project. He explained a Project Development and Environment Study for the Big Carlos Bridge project is currently ongoing looking at a new or rehabilitated bridge on the south end of Fort Myers Beach. He noted the construction phase for the project has been the top MPO roadway priority for last three years. He said the priority includes a request for \$25 million in federal funding – about 50% of the construction cost. In an effort to move the project forward, FDOT is proposing to commit \$10 million from its Surface Transportation Program 'Any Area' federal funds to be matched with \$15 million in the MPO's allocation of federal 'SU' funds. He said the MPO share will be spread over 3 years from its annual allocations for FYs 2025, 2026 and 2027. He added the MPO portion of the funding requires spending on other programs, off the top box funding, for those three years to be reduced by at least \$1 million a year. He said the MPO Board approved the proposal at its June 22nd meeting. He concluded that hopefully this will allow us to move further down on the roadway priority list in the future. Mr. Gogoi said the goal now should be to maximize programming the unspent SU funds from FY 2019 through FY 2024 on this year's submitted priorities.

Agenda Item #5 - Challenger and Winkler Avenue Neighborhood Safety Audit

Ms. Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive introduced herself and provided a purview of work that her group, Streets Alive, does to promote bicycle and pedestrian activity on streets. She then proceeded to discuss

the bicycle pedestrian safety audits that her group had conducted. She discussed the neighborhood connectivity audit that was conducted in the area of Six Mile Cypress Parkway and Colonial Boulevard. She said the intersection is in close proximity to Ray V. Pottorf Elementary School and Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School. She noted high speed cars, but there are many opportunities for improvement and connectivity. She showed several pictures she had taken and discussed recommendations to make the areas safer. Chair Moser suggested speed zone signage in front of the school and asked if Ms. Giraldo had questioned why there weren't any. She replied that the School District was conducting audits. Mr. Karakos said that an audit was conducted for all of the schools in the City of Fort Myers. He added signage is in the works, and this will be addressed. A brief discussion followed on ways to slow down traffic in the area. Mr. Karakos mentioned the addition of an interim improvement traffic signal with a crosswalk at Winkler and Challenger before a future roundabout is installed. Chair Moser asked about a gate between the school and the residential areas. Ms. Giraldo replied she did not think that happened as children were still jumping the fence to get to school. Mr. Giraldo continued her presentation with a review of the sidewalks in the area, including some that just ended. Mr. Makau discussed the programmed City projects related to that area, and the connectivity they will provide. Ms. Giraldo continued her presentation with more pictures and review of safety issues for each. She concluded her presentation noting there is still much work to be done and they would be happy to work with citizens and governments to increase safety on the roadways. She also said the Streets Alive organization has developed a tool to manage data that can be used for awareness, budgets, and funding opportunities from different sources that can be shared with local governments.

Old Business

Agenda Item #8 - LeeTran Report

Ms. Tammi Darnell with LeeTran said there was no LeeTran report. She mentioned she had already emailed her office on the relocation of the bus stop mentioned earlier.

Mr. Gogoi commented that the bus stop across from the Social Security Administration building will be removed on July 13th. LeeTran will also remove the concrete bus pad. Customers to the Social Security Building will be dropped at the new bus stop on Colonial Boulevard west of Veronica Shoemaker Parkway. Ms. Darnell said they have also posted a rider alert.

Agenda Item #6 - MPO Project Updates

There were no MPO project updates.

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

Mr. Wagley announced that the county has openings on their Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

The Village of Estero announced they had just selected a consultant for their Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Scott added the MPO Board approved the selection on Friday and now contract negotiations will begin. Mr. Gogoi noted that Jacobs was the consultant chosen. There was a brief discussion on the importance of education for citizens and councilmembers. Mr. Saxton asked if there was a Wayfinding update. Mr. Scott replied that he had a meeting later that week, all the plans and permits are done, and they should be out later this summer installing the signs.

Ms. Salli Kirkland announced that the City of Sanibel also selected a consultant for their Shared Use Master Plan. She said the next step is approval by the City of Sanibel Council. She also said the paths on Sanibel were clear if anyone wanted a safe place to cycle, and the rental shop on Sanibel at Bailey's had a few pedal-assist electric bicycles.

Mr. Sean Gibbons mentioned the City of Bonita Springs has their first set of projects related to the new Complete Streets code requirements. He thanked Mr. Feeney for his presentation and hard work. He also thanked Ms. Arleen Hunter.

Agenda Item #9 - FDOT Report

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT reported that Central Office is continuing to develop the new SUN Trail projects for the new fifth year (FY 2023/2024) of the work program. He also mentioned Mr. Jim Wood is moving on to a new position and will no longer be involved in SUN Trail. Chair Moser mentioned the Southwest Area Office has a new director. Mr. Agacinski replied yes, and that it is Mr. Wayne Gaither.

Agenda Item #11 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items handed out.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.

The July BPC meeting was cancelled. The next BPC Meeting is August 28, 2018.