

**BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE**

10:00 a.m., August 28, 2018  
Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A  
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239-244-2220



**Meeting Minutes**

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**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Moser at approximately 10:00 a.m.

**Agenda Item #2 – Roll Call/Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves. There was a quorum. Those in attendance included:

From the BPC

Andy Getch	Lee County Department of Community Development
Arnold Valdez	LeeTran
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Carie Call	Lee County MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Dennis Petracca	Lee County Sheriff's Office
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-at-Large
Jason Lamey	Lee Parks
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Tamara Darnell	LeeTran
Tina Sujana	Member-at-Large

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi, Don Scott, and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; David Agacinski with FDOT; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Danny Gray Jr. with Cape Coral Police Department; Deven Long and Todd Seymour with David Plummer & Associates; Chene' Thompson with Pavese Law; John Majka with Superior Sheds; and Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive of Southwest Florida.

**Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on Items on the Agenda**

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

**Agenda Item #4 - \*Approval of the June 26, 2018 Minutes**

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the June 26, 2018 BPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Dave Wheaton seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #5 - +SR 78 Pathway Alternative Analysis Presentation**

This agenda item was pulled due to the SR 78 Pathway Alternative Analysis not being ready to present.

## **Agenda Item #6 - +Virginia McGregor Roundabout Presentation**

Mr. Carl Karakos presented this agenda item on the Virginia/McGregor roundabout. He introduced Mr. Deven Long and Mr. Todd Seymour, with David Plummer & Associates. They gave a Power Point presentation on the project. The presentation included a brief history of the project to its current status in appeal, project design, signalized intersection crash statistics, traffic concerns in the project area, misconceptions related to roundabouts, and benefits of roundabouts. They also discussed that there are over 70 roundabouts existing in Lee County, and the project area has been evaluated for a roundabout since 2002. They continued the presentation with a list of other projects in the area, traffic analysis for the Virginia McGregor area, level of service analysis, safety analysis, and a more in-depth review of the design. Mr. Karakos' presentation continued with slides on the roundabout design and conceptual slides on the future developments in the area. The Edison Avenue Realignment and City Walk projects were also mentioned. Ms. Chene' Thompson then discussed the objections to the roundabout not preserving the character of the roadway presented by the Historic Preservation Board noting that the location of the existing fountain was in the center of a previous roundabout on McGregor. She added that there would be a need for a roundabout or a signal eventually as traffic grows. Ms. Carie Call noted her concern with the choice of non-native plants for the landscaping and recommended replacing them with native plants. Ms. Thompson said the vegetation was recommended by the Beautification Commission, but she would look into changing. Chair Moser asked if the two existing signals would remain intact. Mr. Long replied yes, and there will be improvements made to the signal cycling/timing and pedestrian crosswalk. There was a brief discussion on the new roundabout in Bonita Springs. Ms. Diana Giraldo commented on the lack of signs to alert drivers as they approach the Crystal/Plantation roundabout. Mr. Long noted the placement of the Royal Palms in the center of the roundabout will alert drivers to the roundabout and there will be temporary signs to alert drivers during the break-in period. He added that pedestrian and cyclist counts were conducted, and the roundabout is safer for them. There was a brief discussion on the size of the City Walk development in downtown Fort Myers and the increase in pedestrian activity that will bring. Another discussion followed on the abilities of larger vehicles to maneuver the roundabout and the design to accommodate them. Chair Moser asked about the preference of the Historic Preservation Board for a signal over the roundabout. Ms. Thompson said they seemed to indicate a preference for a signal although the findings were not presented in writing as they usually are. Ms. Giraldo asked if this had been brought to the Bicycle Pedestrian Board. Ms. Thompson replied that it had, and they gave support for the roundabout. A committee member questioned how many trees would be removed. A representative from David Plummer & Associates replied eighteen would be impacted, twelve of those will be replanted and the others will go to the tree nursery. He noted the trees did not seem to be an issue for the Historic Preservation Board, their issue was their perceived widening of McGregor with the roundabout. He added the Historic Preservation Board did not see a need for it as it is not a safety concern now. He said the intersection will be a major one in the future with the planned development and this roundabout will accommodate that. There was a brief discussion on the increased width of sidewalks around the roundabout. Mr. Karakos and Ms. Thompson discussed the presentation they would give to the Fort Myers City Council for the appeal. Mr. Karakos also discussed Complete Streets and designing for the future. He said people would also be speaking in support of the roundabout. Chair Moser asked if the committee would like to endorse the roundabout project in an effort to assist the City of Fort Myers in achieving its approval for implementation.

**Ms. Isobel Hitchcock made the motion to approve the BPCC's support of the Virginia/McGregor Roundabout. Ms. Tina Sujana seconded the motion. There was one objection. The motion passed.**

There was a brief discussion on the responsibilities of the BPCC. Ms. Thompson said any one present was welcome to come and speak at the appeal with an informal date of October 15, 2018. She said she would email updates to anyone interested.

## **Agenda Item #7 - High Visibility Enforcement Grant Update**

Lieutenant Dennis Petracca with the Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) presented a brief update on their High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) Grant. He said the grant is for bicycle/pedestrian safety and covered January through May 2018. He listed the locations they worked with including the areas of Pine Island Road, Old US 41, and North Key Drive in North Fort Myers, Palm Beach in East Fort Myers, South Road to Andrea Lane on US 41 in Fort Myers, a portion of Lee Boulevard in Lehigh Acres, and a section on Old US 41 in Bonita Springs. He commented that during that time contact was made with over 700 pedestrians and over 400 cyclists. He said over 600 vehicles were interacted with. He said there were a total of 39 operations that lasted four hours each. He said the \$48,000 grant was spent on staff support charges for these operations. He noted they had resubmitted for the next grant cycle and that would begin soon. He said the next cycle will include 55 operations that will last at least three hours each. He also discussed the locations for the next cycle. He added that the officers that participate in the grant must take a 4-hour training course. He noted the amount of the grant is \$55,000. Mr. Brian Raimondo commented on his coordination with LCSO regarding the locations for enforcement.

Investigator Danny Gray with the Cape Coral Police Department said he was filling in for Sergeant Lear. He referred to the slide that was shown at the meeting. Mr. Gray said between December 2017 and March 2018, a total of 24 operations were completed. He said they were conducted on the Santa Barbara Boulevard corridor, the Del Prado Boulevard corridor, the SR 78 corridor, the Chiquita Boulevard corridor, the Diplomat corridor, and a section of Cape Coral Parkway. He added there was a total of 236 personnel hours. He noted there were 85 pedestrian contacts, 106 bicycle contacts, and 61 motor vehicle contacts. There was a brief discussion on the warnings and citations that were issued. Ms. Call commented on the need for enforcement. There was a brief discussion on the legality of crossing mid-block, especially in the area of Matlacha. The enforcement being done by Florida Highway Patrol in Lee County was also mentioned.

Chair Moser asked for an update on the TIGER/Wayfinding projects. Mr. Scott said he would address that later in the meeting.

There was a brief discussion on updating the bicycle map for Lee County. Mr. Raimondo said he would like to have an update by the end of the year.

## **Agenda Item #8 - Trail Maintenance Discussion within State Rights of Way**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item as a discussion on the trail maintenance within state rights of way. Mr. Scott said this is an issue that has persisted and has also been talked about recently. He referred to the maintenance agreement that was included in the packet. He said the construction of multi-use trails/pathways within State owned rights-of-way will now require the execution of maintenance agreements between FDOT and local entities. He noted that determining who will maintain the multi-use path will now have to be determined in the planning of the facilities based on the width of the path/trail. Mr. Scott discussed the impacts of not building pathways on funding and fair share for the area. He said if local entities decide to opt out of multi-use path/trail maintenance responsibilities (pavement markings, bike/ped signals, lighting, guard rails, trail amenities, etc.), FDOT will, most likely, only build a sidewalk facility instead. Mr. Scott raised issues with the maintenance agreement that was attached to the agenda packet. He mentioned the multi-use pathway projects in Lee County currently identified in FDOT's Work Program, all in unincorporated areas, including SR 80 and SR 82, where the size and material of pathway may be changed due to the maintenance agreements. Mr. Scott said FDOT will be scheduling a meeting soon with the MPO and County DOT staff regarding the trail maintenance on some of these ongoing projects. He commented that earlier decisions in ruling out bike ped facilities during road widening in reference to SR 82, have come back to hurt us where we had to go back and accommodate them as part of a costly retrofit project. He gave

the example of US 41 in front of Bell Tower. There was a brief discussion on what is being done to combat these issues, the involvement of local entities, and liability. Mr. Scott brought up the increased incidence of contracts for these projects. He also commented on the future implications on LAP projects and funding. He said this would be brought back at a future meeting. Chair Moser asked if this should be an action item with a recommendation to the MPO Board. Mr. Scott said that was not necessary.

### **Agenda Item #9 - FDOT/MPO/Local Agency Updates**

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT mentioned the design phase of John Yarbrough Extension was originally funded in the amount of \$327,140. The City of Fort Myers conducted a feasibility study that determined a need for an overpass that would require additional funds for design. He said the City requested the additional funds from FDOT, and FDOT has funded it 100%, for a new design total of \$685,748. He mentioned new staff at SWAO District 1 that will be managing local projects in Lee County so they will not have to go through the Bartow office. He added Wayne Gaither has a new administrative assistant.

Mr. Scott gave an update on the MPO projects. He mentioned the accident that occurred while a contractor was placing signs on the wayfinding project. He said one of the employees of the contractor was hit and killed by a driver that appears to have been impaired and was driving erratically. There was a brief discussion on the project and if the conditions were dangerous. Mr. Scott said the workers were off the road and proper MOT was followed. He gave a brief history of the TIGER project and showed the areas that were completed. He said the wayfinding should be completed by early fall with a closeout of the grant by the end of the year. He noted that performance monitoring will continue over the next five years. A committee member asked for all of the incorporated areas to provide their data to Mr. Raimondo. Chair Moser suggested tapping in to the consultants for map updates. Ms. Giraldo mentioned a grant that might be helpful for producing maps. The discussion continued briefly on gathering data for the map update. Mr. Scott said there would be an update near closeout and some formal event.

LeeTran had nothing to report.

Lee County Department of Community Development (DCD) discussed the new fifth year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and mentioned the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be voting on it in September. DCD noted the CIP will be brought back after their approval.

Lee County Parks and Recreation announced the purchase of a piece of property for a trailhead for the John Yarbrough Linear Park.

City of Fort Myers staff, Carl Karakos commented that most of the signals will be removed from downtown and replaced with four way stops. He also said the Hanson Street Extension will begin in October, with the construction of the first two major roundabouts in the city. A committee member asked about the signal on Monroe. Mr. Karakos said that will be kept a signal. Chair Moser asked about changing the timing on the signal so it is consistent with an urban environment. Mr. Murphy said LCDOT would look into it as they maintain it. A brief discussion followed on the timing of the lights on Monroe.

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

Ms. Giraldo mentioned an FDOT sponsored Bicycle/Pedestrian Summit being held in Tallahassee on Tuesday and Wednesday. She asked for comments to be submitted.

### **Agenda Item #11 - Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting**

Mr. Karakos asked for a follow-up on the school zone signing program. Mr. Gogoi said he would look in to it.

Mr. John Majka questioned the SR 80 pathway project progress and asked how he should proceed. He mentioned he was trying to obtain an attorney. He asked for more transparency in the process. Chair Moser suggested getting the help of an elected official. Mr. Majka said he has senator and commissioner support. He said four FDOT employees even drove down from Bartow and watched the large trucks make a delivery. Mr. Majka said he would like an answer as now it is going to a hearing. Chair Moser then suggested getting the media involved. Mr. Majka said he was hopeful to reach a resolution, and noted the hearing was tomorrow.

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

There were no information and/or distribution items.

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

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