BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., January 29, 2019 Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A 1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901 239-244-2220



MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Vice-Chair Jennifer Hagen.

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call/Introductions

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

From the BPCC

Andy Getch Lee County Department of Community Development

Arnold Valdez LeeTran

David Wagley Lee County Department of Community Development

David Wheaton Member-at-Large
Doug Saxton Village of Estero
Carl Karakos City of Fort Myers
Isobel Hitchcock Member-at-Large

James Lear Cape Coral Police Department
Jason Lamey Lee County Parks and Recreation

Jeffrey VanArsdale Florida Highway Patrol Jennifer Hagen Member-at-Large

Lee Waller Lee County Parks and Recreation

Mark Tesoro
Pim Tan
Salli Kirkland

Lee Health Trauma
City of Cape Coral
City of Sanibel

Simone Behr Leé County Visitor and Convention Bureau

Syndi Bultman Lee Health Trauma

Others in attendance included Don Scott and Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; David Agacinski with FDOT; and a member of the public John Majka.

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 December 4, 2018 Minutes

Mr. David Wheaton made the motion to approve the December 4, 2018 BPCC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Mark Tesoro seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Agenda Item #5 - *Follow up from the SR 80 Shoreland Drive to Buckingham Road Sidewalk Project</u> Discussion at the MPO Board Meeting

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to discuss the programmed sidewalk on the north side of SR 80 from Shoreland Drive to Buckingham Road and make a recommendation to the MPO Board. He added there was still support for the project as the MPO Board felt that a substantial amount of funds have already been spent on the project over the last few years. He noted this past week we were informed that the project is funded with a mix of sources and the MPO allocated SU funds is only a small portion of the total. He continued this does not guarantee the funds can be expended on another project from the MPO's list of bike ped priorities. He said the project is primarily programmed with state dollars – District Dedicated Revenues, STP and TA - Any Area funds. He said this means if FDOT is asked to withdraw the funds from this project, the funds will very likely be spent

on another project outside the county. Mr. Scott also mentioned a possible discrepancy in estimated funding amounts as the cost per mile on the south side of the roadway is considerably higher than the estimate for the north side. Mr. Scott gave a project description and brief history of the project. Mr. Scott said at its December 14th meeting, the Lee MPO Board asked staff to bring back a list of priority projects so they can choose an alternative project to fund if they decide to terminate the SR 80 north side project and spend the funds on another project in Lee County. He showed a slide of the following table of the latest snapshot of project funding in the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program:

FPN: 4298231 Project/Location: SR 80 FROM SHORELAND DRIVE TO CR 80 (BUCKINGHAM RD)

Desc: SIDEWALK

Project Length: 6.781 Begin Mile Post: 6.080 End Mile Post: 10.555

Comments:

Phase	Fund	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
CST	DDR	\$0	\$889,749	\$0	\$0	\$0
CST	SA	\$0	\$564,149	\$0	\$0	\$0
CST	SU	\$0	\$222,929	\$0	\$0	\$0
CST	TALT	\$0	\$1,011,505	\$0	\$0	\$0
Project Total:		\$0	\$2,688,332	\$0	\$0	\$0

He continued that the potential projects to be considered, if the funds are asked to be moved, are listed in the next agenda item. He noted the fact that the project would need to be designed and ready to let by FY 2021 reduces this list further and in addition the DDR funds cannot be used off of the State Highway System. He added the issue is complex due to the varying funding sources and rules for use. He said he is still waiting for a response from FDOT to several questions he asked. Mr. Gogoi said the majority of the funding could be lost as only the SU funds are guaranteed to stay in Lee County. There was a brief discussion on the funding sources and guidelines for use. Mr. Karakos asked when the decision will be made. Mr. Scott said it will have to be made by June. Vice-Chair Jennifer Hagen asked about making a recommendation to the MPO Board. Mr. Scott said he would wait until FDOT responds. Vice-Chair Hagen asked if there was any additional discussion. There was none.

<u>Agenda Item #6 - *Approve the List of Projects for FDOT Review for Construction Viability for TA and SU Box Fund Priorities</u>

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the list of projects for FDOT review for construction viability and updated cost estimates, that was attached to the agenda packet and shown as a slide at the meeting. He said none of the projects are new, they are unfunded projects that had been previously submitted. He added the list also includes two projects from Cape Coral that were accidently left out from last year's priorities including a proposed sidewalk on SW 10th Street from Chiquita Blvd to Skyline Pkwy and on Skyline Pkwy from Cape Coral Pkwy to El Dorado Pkwy. He noted the priority order remains the same. Ms. Pim Tan asked if the priorities would be evaluated. Mr. Gogoi said he would evaluate them. Ms. Tan indicated Cape Coral had a preference as to project priority. Mr. Gogoi noted the priorities will be brought back in May. He mentioned the Town of Fort Myers Beach project that will begin in March will automatically be moved to the top. He said he is looking for approval so he can submit to FDOT before the deadline. Vice-Chair Hagen asked if there was any discussion on the agenda item. Mr. David Wagley pointed out that Bell Boulevard is a collector road. Mr. Gogoi said that would be corrected.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the List of Projects for FDOT Review for Construction Viability for TA and SU Box Fund Priorities. Ms. Isobel Hitchcock seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - +Review and Analysis of the 2019 Dangerous by Design Report

Vice-Chair Hagen introduced this agenda item for input on the 2019 Dangerous by Design Report and recommended actions if necessary. She said the 2019 Dangerous by Design Report by the National Complete Streets Coalition was released on January 23rd. The report can be accessed here: http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dangerous-by-Design-2019-FINAL.pdf Mr. Scott then continued with a review of the report. He said the report ranks each state and the 100 most populous metro areas based on how deadly they are for people walking. He noted Collier County was 144 on the list. Mr. Scott mentioned that our area was ranked number one on the last report. He said our fatalities were down but our bike/ped numbers haven't changed. He said scooters and skateboards and other new devices could impact the number. Mr. Scott explained how the rankings were calculated, reviewed the state and area rankings, and discussed the changes

from the last report. Mr. Scott said vehicle safety features may be impacting the numbers for vehicle occupants. There was a brief discussion on how the fatalities are calculated. Mr. Scott continued his presentation with slides on bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities, distracted driving, infrastructure improvements, planning activities, outreach activities, and engineering. He then mentioned an MPOAC discussion on how to get Florida off the list, noting education and outreach was important. Mr. Karakos asked if this report could be an impetus for more education and safety messages. Mr. Scott replied yes. Ms. Syndi Bultman commented on poor driver behavior, the need for education, and following the rules of the road. Mr. Wagley agreed with Mr. Karakos that this report could be used as a tool to support the safety message and improvements. There was a brief discussion on driver behavior, suggestions to change it, and the need for education. Mr. Scott said other funding might be required to be used on safety projects and most projects could be classified as safety projects. Mr. Wagley suggested public education campaigns should accompany projects. Mr. Karakos said complete streets calls for performance measures and monitoring of progress. He added that staff and councilmember education is also important. Mr. Scott said analyzing projects before and after sometimes does not show the desired benefits. Vice-Chair Hagen noted complete streets was relatively new and there may not be data and results yet to show its effectiveness. A brief discussion followed on the courses of action that could be taken. Mr. Scott said FDOT set the number at zero, and he would like to at least see the trends go down. Sergeant James Lear brought up distracted driving and the fact that people do know better but they still make bad choices. A brief discussion followed on educating people on the consequences of distracted driving, making texting while driving a primary offense, and vehicle technology improvements making roads safer. Mr. Scott said this vehicle technology would help reach the target of zero by 2040. The committee then discussed the next steps in responding to this report. Vice-Chair Hagen summarized major points including behavior change, public campaigns, education of staff, distracted driving, and vehicle improvements.

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

Mr. David Wagley with Lee County discussed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects that were previously emailed to the BPCC. He showed the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Excel spreadsheet slide prioritizing the bike/ped projects in Lee County and reviewed the projects on the slide. The slide showed projects that are in the CIP work program, those that were in the program but are no longer in due to cost increases, and those that are waiting to go into the CIP. He added that Mr. Dave Wheaton is also a member of the BPAC. He said there are currently vacancies on the BPAC. Mr. Wagley said the projects are arranged by construction year and ordered by priority according to a points scoring system. He reviewed the projects on the list including sidewalks on Hancock Bridge Parkway, Del Prado, Plaza Drive, Stringfellow Road, and West Mariana Avenue. He then reviewed future projects and those that were removed from the list. Mr. Wagley concluded his presentation and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Karakos asked about the scoring system and how the projects were prioritized. Mr. Wagley explained the process. Mr. Karakos asked if Mr. Wagley could share the point scoring information with the City of Fort Myers. Mr. Wagley replied yes. He added the point scoring system is very objective but the priority order can be modified by the BPAC if there are other factors. He gave the example of the Richmond Avenue Bridge in Lehigh that had scored lower than another project but had been bumped up by the committee. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that he had just submitted the Richmond Avenue Bridge as a Safe Routes to School priority. Vice-Chair Hagen thanked Mr. Wagley for his presentation.

LeeTran had no updates.

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT said the SUN Trail website had been updated with the latest maps from Florida Greenways and Trails. He said there still wasn't a schedule for new application, but he would let everyone know when there was. Mr. Gogoi noted the new map shows the Estero Boulevard and San Carlos Coastal Loop as part of the network. Mr. Agacinski said the railroad corridor was also updated. Mr. Agacinski also mentioned that FDOT's Transportation Data and Analytics Office is developing bicycle and pedestrian counters to enhance data for safety studies and planning activities. He said they are looking for one or two permanent monitoring stations per district as well as several short-term sites. He said to notify FDOT if there is an interest. Mr. Gogoi said FDOT is looking for locations with a considerable amount of foot traffic. Mr. Scott asked if there was a description of the locations where they are seeking to put the permanent counters. Mr. Agacinski said there will be a training portion of the program as well. He suggested contacting Mr. Eric Katz with FDOT's Transportation Data and Analytics Office for further information. He said that office will become a statewide repository for all non-motorized data collection. Mr. Gogoi suggested interested parties should contact the office as soon as possible.

Mr. Karakos with the City of Fort Myers said he was working on the scope for John Yarbrough Linear Park so it can be advertised for design. Mr. Gogoi noted construction was not currently funded. Mr. Agacinski mentioned that just because one phase of a project was funded through SUN Trail doesn't mean subsequent phases will be funded. He added there wasn't an application in for the construction phase and that hinders progress as well. Mr. Karakos said the City of Fort Myers will also be advertising for the design phase of First and Second Streets. He said the first phase will just be conversion to a two-way street and signals. He added, the second phase will examine strategies to make it a complete streets project.

Sergeant James Lear said the Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program funded by FDOT is offering free training in Cape Coral. He noted that anyone interested could see him after the meeting.

Ms. Salli Kirkland with the City of Sanibel mentioned they are currently working on the update of their Shared Use Master Plan. She said the Project Advisory Committee will have their first meeting on Thursday. She also announced that Sanibel was given a Gold Standing as a bicycle friendly community. She requested information on the bicycle counts from Mr. Agacinski as getting counts was a recommendation to achieve Platinum Standing.

Mr. Doug Saxton with the Village of Estero mentioned that they have started their Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. He said the first Project Advisory meeting was held in November and the next one will be held in a few weeks. He added there is an interactive map of Estero online to submit comments. Mr. Saxton suggested sending the link out to the committee for comments. Mr. Gogoi said the link was already up on the MPO website. Mr. Gogoi pulled up the map and showed the committee. There were questions as to if the map was also posted on the Estero website.

Mr. Jason Lamey with Lee County Parks mentioned that the PD&E for the Able Canal was finally wrapping up. He said the public hearing is scheduled for next Thursday, February 7, at Veterans Park Recreation Center beginning at 5:00 p.m. with an open house and then a presentation from the consultant at 6:00 p.m. He said a final recommendation will be made by FDOT. Mr. Gogoi said Lee County is looking for support for the project. He said there were already funds programmed for the entire project if it is built on the north side. Lee County Parks also mentioned that Conservation 20/20 has added a new bike trail at Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve.

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

Mr. John Majka commented on his driveway concerns on SR 80.

Agenda Item #11 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

Mr. Scott noted the next meeting, February 26, will be held at the Collaboratory at 2031 Jackson Street. A map was handed out. Mr. Gogoi said the group can decide after the next meeting if they would like to hold future meetings there. Vice-Chair Hagen suggested a presentation from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation to give a brief overview of the building. Mr. Gogoi said the election of officers will be a topic at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included a map of the February meeting location.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:51 a.m.

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