

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	Lee Health Trauma
Pim Tan	City of Cape Coral
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Simone Behr	Lee 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.

Agenda Item #5 - *Follow up from the SR 80 Shoreland Drive to Buckingham Road Sidewalk Project 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

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.

*Action Items *May Require Action

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