

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., March 26, 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 10:02 a.m. by 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 Community Development
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wagley	Lee County Community Development
Dawn Huff	LeeTran
Diane Holm	Injury Prevention Coalition
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-at-Large
Jason Lamey	Lee County Parks
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Kalyani Bhutada	Fort Myers Beach
Lee Waller Salli	Lee County Parks
Kirkland Tina	City of Sanibel
Sujana	Member-at-Large

Others in attendance included Don Scott, Brian Raimondo, and Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; David Agacinski with FDOT; and John Majka, a member of the public.

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 February 26, 2019 Minutes

Mr. Doug Saxton made the motion to approve the February 26, 2019 BPCC Meeting Minutes with the correction of “Hagan” to “Hagen” in all misspelled references. Ms. Isobel Hitchcock seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Discussion on the Countywide Bicycle Pedestrian Map Layers

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item for discussion on the Countywide Bicycle Pedestrian Map. He said last year, the BPCC asked staff to work on an update to the current bike facilities map. He added since then staff has received other requests such as maps or map layers that reflect existing sidewalks, wayfinding signage routes, off road pathways and the ability to make these maps available both electronically and in print form. He asked for input on the map format and design, facility types to be shown in the map layers, whether there is a need to develop a map layer that provides the widths of facilities, etc. A committee member commented that the map should include all of Lee County. Mr.

Brian Raimondo said there were several possibilities for the design, layout, and what to include. He also discussed that the pedestrian and cyclist facilities could be separated into two maps. He polled the committee on which format was preferred – paper, digital, or both. The majority of the committee was in favor of providing both. Mr. Dan Moser said there should be some basic safety information included as well. Mr. David Wagley suggested keeping the map simple by just providing on-road and separated facilities. Chair Hagen noted that the types of facilities could be color coded to differentiate. There was a brief discussion on how to notate bicycle routes on the map that followed roads, especially in Cape Coral. The committee also discussed how to differentiate between the types of facilities on the map. Ms. Holm brought up using the cell phone to help with navigation of bike routes. Another committee member suggested adding links to the map that would connect to more detailed maps or apps. A discussion followed on creating a specific app for this information. Mr. Raimondo suggested not purchasing as many maps for the next edition as there are still boxes of the old map at the office. The committee then reviewed the current designations and how to refine them. A suggestion was made to include pictures next to the designations to illustrate the types. Another committee member suggested layers that could be added or removed. Mr. Raimondo asked if sidewalks should be included. Mr. Scott said it could be a digital layer. Another committee member suggested also including definitions. Several committee members said the sidewalks should be included on the map. Mr. Scott said there will be another layer for sidewalks but it isn't feasible to include all of the sidewalks in Lee County. A committee member suggested focusing on networks. Mr. Scott said MPO staff will put something together based on these comments and bring it back. Ms. Holm raised concern for novice bicycle riders if sidewalks are not included on the map. Mr. Scott added that there are some sidewalks that will be included as part of the networks. Mr. Raimondo said that layers can be done and that will clean the map up. Chair Hagen asked if more direction was needed. Mr. Scott said he had adequate information to proceed. Chair Hagen asked if the committee was comfortable with keeping the map simple. The committee agreed. Chair Hagen also suggested placing information on the map. The committee discussed the type of information that could be included. Chair Hagen asked if there were any additional comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #6 - Discussion on the MPO Executive Committee Feedback on the Dangerous by Design Report

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item for feedback on the discussion on the 2019 Dangerous by Design report from the February 13th MPO Executive Committee (MEC) meeting. He gave a brief history of the previous MEC discussions leading to the February discussion. Mr. Scott added the validity of the report was questioned at the February MEC meeting due to it not being produced by a government agency. Mr. Scott also noted there were issues with the way that the results were calculated. He said that regardless of the way the results are calculated, our area is still high on the list. He mentioned that even though there was a decrease last year, at the current rate this year – our area will most likely increase. He added that there may not even be a safety difference when evaluating before and after implemented projects. Mr. Scott noted that distracted driving is a huge issue.

Agenda Item #7 - Discussion on the Public Education Outreach Activities

The meeting discussion then turned to this agenda item on public outreach activities. Mr. Scott said the last MPO Board meeting brought a request for more information on education and updated statistics. A committee member expressed concern for driver behavior. Mr. Scott said that was something he was focusing on. Ms. Diana Giraldo commented on the need for more sidewalks and better bus stops. Mr. Scott said there are hundreds of miles of local roads that may never have sidewalks. Mr. Moser said it comes down to enforcement and education from officers. Mr. James Lear noted that the Cape Coral Police Department (PD) does enforce, for example stopping cyclists that are riding the wrong way. He added that the Cape PD is understaffed. Ms. Giraldo said that proposing solutions is important, and she mentioned a list of action items to proceed with like labeling all bus stops. Chair Hagen suggested forming a subcommittee to work on specific recommendations. Mr. Moser said that this could be

addressed in the process of updating the Bike Ped Master Plan. Mr. Scott mentioned some of the MPO staff proposals including a handout with questions, an interactive webpage, statistics related to what works, and videos that show bad behavior in the community. Ms. Giraldo commented on a grant from FGCU to do safety audits that could be helpful in documenting existing conditions. Mr. Scott mentioned count data that needs to be compiled, possibly by an intern. Chair Hagen asked for volunteers for the subcommittee. Several committee members raised their hands. Mr. Scott noted that only a few of his presentation slides at the MEC meeting dealt with the content of the report, while the remaining slides focused on crash statistics. He pointed out that they are high for our area. Chair Hagen asked if there were any more comments. Several committee members expressed their dis-satisfaction with the questioning of the validity of the Dangerous by Design report by elected officials.

Agenda Item #8 - MPOAC Legislative Update

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item as an update to the latest transportation related legislative update from the MPOAC. He said the most recent developments were shown in red text. He pointed out the micromobility and motorized scooter legislation that might have wording changes to deal with local control. The committee briefly discussed electric bicycles/motorized scooters and a few of the other legislative items. Mr. Moser asked about the distracted driving bill. Mr. Scott said he could gather more information on that and send it out. Chair Hagen asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

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

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT said that all of the district SUN Trail coordinators are working with Central Office to review the prioritization list for SUN Trail projects.

Mr. Gogoi mentioned the two master plan updates in progress. He invited Mr. Doug Saxton to comment on the Village of Estero's Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Saxton said the last Public Advisory Council meeting was held the prior day. He said a fairly good cross-section was sampled and favorable comments received for improvements. He said that the online map also had a large amount of feedback. He mentioned facing challenges due to the combination of gated communities and local, county, and state roads in the Village. He added there would be a presentation by the consultants to the Village Council on May 1, 2019. Mr. Saxton also mentioned SUN Trail, other pathways on Three Oaks and US 41, and communication with adjacent communities. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the power line easement, possible trail there, and reactions from the surrounding gated communities. Mr. Gogoi said that Village staff would be communicating with the HOAs in that area. Mr. Gogoi invited Ms. Salli Kirkland to provide an update on the progress of Sanibel's Shared Use Master Plan. She said they just held their second Public Advisory Committee meeting. She added the consultants were working on diverting some traffic off Periwinkle. She said Sanibel also had a survey and an interactive map. She added there would be another public outreach on April 22, 2019. Mr. Gogoi said a preliminary survey analysis had been done, and he shared some of the results. The committee briefly discussed some of the options and suggestions. Mr. Gogoi continued his presentation on the results of the public outreach. He said the consultant will be evaluating the Periwinkle corridor for accommodating shared used path on the north side and/or bike lanes. Mr. Gogoi then commented on the Able Canal project. He said FDOT presented to the other committees and the MPO Board and showed the slide with the latest numbers which supported the pathway. That support was 74% based on all the comments that were collected from February 7m 2019 through February 18, 2019. Mr. Moser brought up conflicts with cyclists and pedestrians on sidewalks on Fort Myers Beach, and the need for signage to remind cyclists to warn when passing.

Chair Hagen asked if there were any other agency updates. Ms. Dawn Huff with LeeTran said the ridership on Fort Myers Beach has already exceeded 100,000.

Chair Hagen then mentioned that Ms. Giraldo with Streets Alive had to leave, but conveyed her comments including Streets Alive offer to assist with activities. She also presented an updated sticker developed by Streets Alive to encourage motorists to give space to cyclists.

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

Mr. John Majka handed out information on his SR 80 business driveway access issues with FDOT. He gave public comment on these issues and his new proposal. He then asked the committee to endorse his proposal. Chair Hagen asked if there were any comments from the committee. She mentioned that Mr. Majka might need legal representation. She also suggested there might be site constraints due to growth. Mr. Majka made additional comments about his driveway access issues. The committee discussed Mr. Majka's issues. Chair Hagen asked for assistance from the other committee members on this issue. Mr. Doug Saxton noted that this is public comment, and the committee is not obligated to take any action. Ms. Dawn Huff said the members of the committee are not attorneys and as such are not able to interpret the law with relation to his case. Chair Hagen suggested there might be site design issues, and Mr. Majka might consider an attorney. Chair Hagen said that Mr. Majka has been given a lot of time. Mr. Saxton said that public comment does not require a response, and the committee has gone beyond that. Mr. Majka thanked the committee. Chair Hagen noted this is beyond the committee, and the committee needed to move on to the next agenda item.

Agenda Item #11 - Announcements

Mr. Scott said the next meetings will be at the Collaboratory. Chair Hagen asked the next meeting date. Mr. Gogoi said it is April 23, 2019.

Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting

There were no topics suggested for next meeting.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items handed out at the meeting included the latest version of the MPOAC Legislative Update.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

*Action Items *May Require Action

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