

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., April 23, 2019
SW Florida Community Foundation Collaboratory
2031 Jackson Street, Suite 100, 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. This was followed by an observance of a one-minute silence in memory of Lee County Commissioner Larry Kiker who passed away that morning.

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 Community Development
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wagley	Lee County Community Development
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Dawn Huff	LeeTran
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-at-Large
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Jodi Walborn	Safe Routes to School/John Hopkins
Kalyani Bhutada	Fort Myers Beach
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma Center
Pim Tan	City of Cape Coral
Salli Kirkland	City of Sanibel
Simone Behr	Visitor and Convention Bureau

Others in attendance included Don Scott and Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; David Willems with the Village of Estero; David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering; Michael Tisch and 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 March 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. David Wagley made the motion to approve the March 26, 2019 BPC Meeting Minutes with the minutes being corrected to reflect that he was one of the attendees. Mr. David Wheaton seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Approve the Addition of the Richmond Avenue Pedestrian Bridge to the Candidate List of Projects for TA and SU Box Funds

Mr. Ron Gogoi stated that the committee is familiar with the Richmond Avenue pedestrian bridge project as they had previously reviewed it as part of Safe Route to School priorities. He said now it is being brought before the committee because the county has made a request to MPO and FDOT for MPO allocated federal dollars to fund the project. He added for consideration of MPO funds the project must be among the priorities adopted by the MPO in June and this action has to be preceded first by addition of the project to the candidate list of projects for TA and SU Box funds. He noted the project also includes filling approximately 1900' of sidewalk gaps on roadways that provide direct access to the school. He said the project cost is \$817,000. He further explained that Lee County DOT has requested the MPO and FDOT to fund the project with \$629,000 TA funds committed in FY 2024 to the Queens Drive and Richmond Avenue Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project, a project that the county has requested be removed from the FDOT Work Program because of drainage issues. He explained that if funds are programmed in FY 2024, the County will use local funds to advance the project phases to earlier years and seek reimbursement in FY 2024. Mr. Murphy noted this would require an agreement with FDOT for reimbursement of funds, and that he is only seeking funds for the bridge and not the sidewalks. Mr. Michael Tisch suggested an updated cost schedule be provided. Mr. Murphy said a breakdown of the costs that have been submitted as part of the project application already shows the cost of the bridge. Mr. Gogoi stated that the County proposal to use one of its general planning consultants instead of going through the CCNA process, will reduce costs for the bridge and associated sidewalks and any difference in costs due to the sidewalks will be met by the county. Mr. Dan Moser asked why FEMA funding was not requested as the damage was caused from Hurricane Irma. Mr. Murphy noted the bridge was in LA-MSID right of way and it would have been their responsibility to apply for that. Ms. Dawn Huff added that there was no proof of ownership of the bridge and it was constructed about twenty years ago. Mr. Murphy said the county will maintain the bridge after it is reconstructed. Chair Hagen asked for a motion.

Mr. David Wagley made the motion to approve the addition of the Richmond Avenue Pedestrian Bridge to the list of Projects for TA and SU box funds. Mr. David Wheaton seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Village of Estero Bike Ped Master Plan Presentation

Mr. Ron Gogoi invited Mr. Ned Baier with Jacobs Engineering to provide an update on the Village of Estero Bike Ped Master Plan. Mr. Baier said, in coordination with Alta, the development of the first ever Village of Estero Bike Ped Master Plan is in the final phase of completion. He said it has been underway since October of last year. He mentioned there were several people from the BPCC that had participated as advisors in the development of the plan. He introduced the project manager, Mr. David Willems with the Village of Estero. He then proceeded to show a PowerPoint. The full presentation can be found here: <http://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Estero-April-23-Presentation-v5final.pdf> The presentation included information on the project purpose and schedule with presentation to the Council in May and adoption in June. He continued his presentation with slides on existing conditions/facilities. Mr. Baier continued his presentation with slides on mapped crashes in the Village of Estero, walk score, public engagement activities, project advisory committee, vision and goals, needs assessment, prioritization, and draft recommendations. There was a brief discussion on ensuring all of Corkscrew was addressed in the plan and proposed Broadway improvements. Mr. Baier continued his presentation with more information on recommendations. Mr. Willems spoke about meeting up with the gated communities regarding the proposal for a pathway on the FPL power line easement west of US 41. Mr. Baier wrapped up his presentation with information on programs, policies, schedule, and next steps. Mr. Karakos asked if there was an endorsement required. Chair Hagen noted this was an informational agenda item. Mr. Gogoi asked to move to Agenda Item #8. Chair Hagen agreed.

Agenda Item #8 - MPOAC Legislative Update

Mr. Don Scott provided a report on the latest transportation related legislative update from the MPOAC. He handed out the most recent MPOAC Legislative update that was compiled after the BPCC agenda had gone out. He mentioned several items including transportation disadvantaged, drones, use of wireless communications devices, discretionary sales tax, autonomous vehicles, micromobility, and impact fees. He said the outcomes will be decided in the next few weeks. Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Agenda Item #7 - SRTS Non-Infrastructure Program Update

Ms. Jodi Walborn, SRTS Community Educator, presented this agenda item on the non-infrastructure component of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program in Southwest Florida that is managed by the John Hopkins All Children's Hospital. She gave a slide show presentation that included a history of the Safe Routes to School program, a description of the program, types of outreach activities, associated challenges, and future goals. She asked if there were any questions. Mr. Scott asked about the outcome at a recent school board meeting. Ms. Walborn said she gave her card to the school board and is waiting to hear from them. Mr. Karakos asked if anything is coming out of the recent death in Cape Coral. Ms. Walborn says the benches are great, but there is much needed education. Ms. Walborn also mentioned limited school choice that is coming in the future. Ms. Huff said before she left the school district, they were working on it. A discussion followed on other solutions to address the safety of children walking and waiting at bus stops. Mr. Moser mentioned the Calusa Riders summer camp. Ms. Walborn provided additional information. She said they are also handing out lights. Ms. Huff commended Ms. Walborn for her help with the Safe Routes to School application process. Chair Hagen thanked Ms. Walborn for her presentation. She also asked parents in the room to request Safe Routes to School training at their schools.

Agenda Item #9 - Selection of a BPCC Alternate to the Traffic Management Operations Committee

Mr. Dan Moser introduced this agenda item for the selection of a BPCC Alternate to the Traffic Management Operations Committee (TMOC). He said he currently represents the BPCC at the MPO's TMOC but is often unable to make the meetings. He added there is no alternate currently to fill in when he cannot attend the TMOC meetings. He said that it is important for the BPCC to have a representative to ensure bike/ped needs are addressed. Mr. Gogoi added that the BPCC should pick someone from its membership who does not represent a government agency as they are already represented at those committee meetings. Mr. Moser noted the day, time, and length of the meetings. Chair Hagen asked for the at-large members to think about it and get back with Ron. Mr. David Wheaton said he would volunteer. Ms. Isobel Hitchcock then volunteered to be a second alternate.

Agenda Item #10 - FDOT/MPO/Local Agency Updates

Mr. David Agacinski with FDOT said he has been coordinating with Ms. Pim Tan from the City of Cape Coral to finalize the design for the SUN Trail project on Van Buren, El Dorado, and Kismet. He said once the agreements are signed they will go out for bids. Ms. Tan said bid packages will be out around October with construction early next year. Mr. Agacinski said per SUN Trail standards, the project will be twelve feet wide, cost around \$5 million, and span just over three miles. He added SUN Trail funded \$3.7 million, and the MPO covered the shortfall. There was a brief discussion on storm water management and general construction specifications related to the project. Mr. Agacinski also commented that the design for John Yarbrough Linear Park (JYLP) was proceeding. He said preliminary discussions are taking place with regard to the dates for next cycle for SUN Trail call for projects. Mr. Agacinski advised those present to prepare in advance. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Murphy to comment on the Littleton corridor projects. Mr. Murphy said Lee County DOT has two projects in that

area. He said one is a co-project with the City of Cape Coral – the realignment of Kismet and Littleton from Corbett to 24th. He said the design should be done in the next few months. He added it will then be taken out to bid and construction is planned for early next year. He noted this project includes a roundabout at Corbett. Mr. Murphy said the corridor is planned with on road bike lanes and sidewalks, including a 8' sidewalk on the south side. He said the other project is Littleton from Corbett to US 41, and they are currently selecting a consultant for design. He noted right of way will not be purchased and this will limit the types of facilities, but they still hope to have enough room for on road bike lanes and a 8' shared use path on one side of the road. He said construction can be expected in the next two years. Ms. Tan said this route connects the SUN Trail system to US 41. Mr. Murphy noted there are currently no SUN trail funds allocated to this project. Mr. Karakos with the City of Fort Myers commented that the JYLP scope has been finalized and it will be advertised this week. He said the Winkler Shared Use Path has resurfaced with the City's inclusion of the project in the CIP for 2020. He added that the City will also be looking into building a canal on Carrell Road which is a component of connecting Winkler Avenue and ultimately to JYLP. Mr. Karakos also mentioned First and Second Streets will be advertised in the next couple of days for the first phase which involves the conversion to two-way streets. He said this will incorporate Complete Streets principles as well as numerous public involvement opportunities. Mr. Karakos also mentioned the progress of the Edison Avenue realignment project which involved removing the Virginia roundabout and re-evaluating ten year old plans that do not incorporate Complete Streets principles. A brief discussion followed on the history of the project. Chair Hagen relayed a message from Mr. Sean Gibbons with the City of Bonita Springs. She said that the City of Bonita Springs has several vacancies on its bike ped safety committee and are welcoming applications. Ms. Dawn Huff with LeeTran noted that LeeTran had free rides the day before, but she didn't yet have ridership numbers. Ms. Tan with the City of Cape Coral said they are looking at implementing the projects from its Bike Ped Master Plan, and she would have updates at the next meeting. Ms. Simone Behr with the Visitor and Convention Bureau said they are hosting a Travel Rally at Lakes Park on May 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. David Wheaton mentioned there were openings on the Lee County BPAC. He said applicants could not be employed by the county. Mr. David Wagley noted that Ms. Deborah Chesna from FDOT will presenting on Complete Streets at the next BPAC meeting, May 15th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Lee County Public Works Building. There was a brief discussion on a sidewalk segment that was being filled in on Six Mile Cypress from Heritage Palms to Winkler. Mr. Gogoi said the project was funded by the MPO through the priority process. Ms. Salli Kirkland gave an update on the progress of the City of Sanibel's Shared Use Path Master Plan Update. Mr. Gogoi showed and discussed slides from the latest public meeting on Sanibel. Mr. Mark Tesoro with Lee Health mentioned Lee Health's 25th Anniversary celebration on May 4, 2019. Mr. Agacinski noted that in order to apply for SUN Trail funds the project needs to be on the SUN Trail network and part of the MPO priority list. Mr. Gogoi asked if Mr. Agacinski suggested being prepared with projects to submit should funding become available. Mr. Agacinski replied yes.

Agenda Item #11 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, questioned the shared use pathway process with regard to involving communities. Mr. Agacinski said each situation was unique but generally starts as a request. Mr. Majka then commented on the sidewalk project planned for the north side of SR 80 and his resulting driveway access issues to his businesses on SR 80. Chair Hagen asked if there were any other public comments. There were none.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

Ms. Isobel Hitchcock mentioned the Ride of Silence will be held in Cape Coral this year on May 15 at 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with a Walk of Silence. Save the date cards were also handed out.

Agenda Item #13 - Topics for May 28, 2019 meeting

There were no topics suggested for next meeting.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items except the latest MPOAC Legislative Update and the Ride of Silence Save the Date cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m. Chair Hagen noted the next meeting would be held on May 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Collaboratory.

*Action Items †May Require Action

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