

## BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., December 17, 2019  
LeeTran Headquarters, Public Meeting Room  
3401 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33991  
239-244-2220



### Meeting Minutes

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#### **Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-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
Carie Call	Lee MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-at-Large
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jason Lamey	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Jorge Puente	LeeTran
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Mark Tesoro	Lee Health Trauma Services
Randy Krise	Lee MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
Syndi Bultman	Lee Health Trauma Services

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Marta Gibbons with the Matlacha Association; Colleen Bennett with Lee County Department of Community Development; Bill DeSantis with VHB; Josh Lambert with the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau; and Michael Tisch with FDOT.

#### **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 October 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Randy Krise made the motion to approve the October 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Jennifer Hagen seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #5 - US 41 3R Project Update**

Mr. Michael Tisch reported that a formal decision had not been made thus he had no update on the Department's final determination on whether they will construct bicycle keyhole lanes on US 41 during the upcoming 3R project. Mr. Gogoi expressed concern that design for the project would be starting

soon and asked when a decision would be made. Mr. Tisch replied that Ms. Deborah Chesna will be at the next meeting to address this.

### **Agenda Item #6 - SUN Trail Project Update**

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item as a SUN Trail Project Update. Mr. Gogoi said the BPC had reviewed the Lee MPO's SUN Trail priorities in May and the priorities for this year's grant cycle were adopted on June 21, 2019 by the MPO Board. He reviewed the funded priorities and submitted requests including the following project phases:

- Construction phase of the Kismet Parkway Trail from Nelson Boulevard to Del Prado Boulevard (*Priority 2*)
- Design of the Kismet Parkway Trail from Del Prado Avenue to NE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue (*Priority 6*)
- Bonita-Estero Rails to Trails Feasibility Study from Bonita Beach Road to Alico Road (*Priority 4*)

He added FDOT has informed MPO staff that the unfunded project phases that were submitted as part of a 2017 SUN Trail funding request, for projects that are currently moving forward, do not need to be resubmitted as they will be automatically considered for funding. He said this includes the construction phases for the Kismet Parkway Trail from Del Prado Boulevard to NE 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Priority 7), and the Kismet Parkway Trail from NE 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Priority 8) that were identified in the 2017 priority list. He noted the Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee both recommended the updated priority list and the MPO Executive Committee (MEC) approved this list at its December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to meet the December 20<sup>th</sup> SUN Trail Application Submission deadline. Mr. Gogoi also mentioned that staff is adding a request for planning funds for doing the Caloosahatchee Downtown Multimodal Alternative Study that will look at connection opportunities through the downtown area and into North Fort Myers. The committee discussed future development in North Fort Myers, possible route alternatives, estimated life of the existing bridges, possible cantilevered pathway off the existing bridge, potential funding matches, and possible pedestrian route along drainage area/berm/easement near Pondella. Vice-Chair Moser asked if approval was needed for this. Mr. Gogoi noted this was already approved by the MEC. Mr. Gogoi provided an update on the development of SUN Trail applications noting the MPO was submitting the JYLP application on behalf of the City, and the Caloosahatchee D'Town Multimodal Alternative Study, and that Lee County was uploading the application in GAP for the Estero Boulevard Shared Use Path project.

### **Agenda Item #7 - Review and Provide Input on the Current Year Box Funded Project Priorities**

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item to review and provide input on the list of potential projects for additional federal funds that were added to the MPO's Multi-modal Box in the current fiscal year. Mr. Scott noted there are restrictions to how it can be spent, for instance a new project cannot exceed \$543,000. Mr. Scott then reviewed the staff compiled list including the Cape Coral Police Department's request for a Lidar scanner, LeeTran bus replacement parts, Winkler/Challenger roundabout for the City of Fort Myers with added local fund match, Matanzas Pass bridge re-painting, pedestrian bridge replacement at Richmond in Lehigh, and the Skyplex Greenway. Mr. Gogoi gave additional information on the Sky Plex Greenway. Mr. Scott mentioned the total amount in the table of potential projects had increased to roughly \$3 million from the original amount of \$2.7 million in federal funding in FY 19/20. Mr. Scott said he was not recommending the bridge painting for Matanzas Pass. Mr. Michael Tisch said the cost would be much higher than that estimate. The committee discussed the Matanzas Pass bridge repainting. Vice-Chair Moser asked if the committee was to vote on this. Mr. Gogoi suggested they vote on it as a TIP Amendment that will be brought up for approval at the MPO Board meeting in January. Mr. Gogoi said the Matanzas Pass bridge repainting will be taken off of the list.

**Ms. Jennifer Hagen made the motion to approve the Current Year Box Funded Project Priorities as presented with the exclusion of the Matanzas Pass bridge repainting project. Mr. Mark Tesoro seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #8 - VCB Presentation**

Ms. Simone Behr with the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) presented this agenda item to highlight the agency's activities and milestones for the year. Her presentation included information on social media and website outreach, recent hosted events and resulting articles, airport outreach, monthly newsletter, use of social media influencers, county vehicle with images of Lee County, mobile booths, recent Bike-your-Park day, email blasts, and available funding. Mr. Gogoi asked about specific projects that had been funded with the Shoreline Program. Ms. Behr noted the projects have included bathrooms and trails that led to a beach. Ms. Behr said there was a list of projects on the website. The committee briefly discussed the projects, use of helmets in videos, and recent bicycle accident of Fort Myers Mayor Henderson. Ms. Behr then showed a video produced by the VCB. The committee then discussed the responses to and metrics associated with the video and viewing. They also discussed the beaches in Lee County and the naming of the website for the VCB. Ms. Behr then showed another video that was produced for their fall ad campaign. She discussed the distribution of that video and markets it was sent to. Ms. Behr mentioned an employee of Billy's Bike Shop on Sanibel had been given a VCB award. She said that nominations for the next round could be sent to her via email or at eawards.org. She also said the Junonia Award was given to Billy Kirkland of Billy's Bike Shop on Sanibel. The committee briefly discussed vacation scheduling trends. Vice-Chair Moser thanked Ms. Behr for her presentation.

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

Mr. Gogoi thanked Mr. Mark Tesoro for connecting him with Waterman Broadcasting, the company that had recently produced a PSA and related media outreach for the bicycle turn boxes at Treeline/Daniels. Mr. Gogoi further explained the types of outreach done for the bicycle turn boxes that will continue over the next three months. Vice-Chair Moser mentioned the video. Mr. Gogoi said the video is on the MPO website and the outreach directs users to the MPO website. Mr. Gogoi then showed the video. The committee discussed the behavior of drivers since implementation, placement of bike boxes, use of bike boxes, and flyers for bike boxes. Mr. Tisch with FDOT mentioned legislative requests should be coordinated with the MPO staff as funding for those projects if approved will be subtracted from MPO funds and possibly impact already programmed projects as funding is reduced. The committee discussed the recent legislative requests submitted and the process. Mr. Scott said he would try to get more information on impacts of legislative requests across the state. Mr. Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers mentioned they had recently hired a new GIS employee that is currently working on an update to the bicycle map to be included in the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan update. Mr. Karakos also said the new Comp Plan was recently passed and will be in effect soon. He said he requested staff education on Complete Streets and gave examples of new projects that include Complete Streets concepts. He also mentioned Edwards Drive improvements and the idea of the Bay Street conversion to a bicycle pedestrian corridor. The committee briefly discussed the re-opening of Edwards Drive and the completion of the hotel. Vice-Chair Moser asked Ms. Marta Gibbons if she had any comments on Matlacha. She said she was awaiting information on the upcoming Pine Island Road feasibility study. Mr. Gogoi asked how many people on Matlacha were in support of the trail. She replied the response is mixed. The discussion continued on parking and bicycle/pedestrian facilities and crosswalks on Pine Island Road. Vice-Chair Moser thanked Ms. Gibbons for attending. Mr. Jason Lamey announced they were working on the LAP agreement for the Able Canal project. Vice-Chair Moser asked about the trail-head parking for JYLP. Mr. Lamey said the Board still needs to approve the design. Vice-Chair Moser asked if the most logical option was chosen for the Able Canal pathway. Mr. Lamey replied yes and noted that option was also much cheaper. Mr. Jorge Puente with LeeTran said the scope of work was completed for the update of the Transit Development Plan (TDP) and the Comprehensive Operation Analysis (COA) with completion of the updates schedule for 2020. He also mentioned the scope of work was being written for the Bus Stop Accessibility to determine ADA compliance which will be

directed by the COA. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the update of the TDP and the COA coincides with the development of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Scott added this also coincides with schedules in Charlotte and Collier Counties to assist with coordinating regional transit. Mr. Andy Getch mentioned this would be his last meeting as he was retiring at the end of the year to go work for the Lee County Alliance for the Arts. Vice-Chair Moser complimented Mr. Getch on his exemplary service for Lee County and bicycle pedestrian projects. Mr. Wagley introduced Ms. Colleen Bennett as the new alternate for Lee County Department of Community Development. Mr. Gogoi asked if the County had hired a replacement for Mr. Getch. Mr. Wagley said the position is being advertised.

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

Ms. Jennifer Hagen, on behalf of Streets Alive, mentioned there would be a bike-ped certification training on January 25, 2020 in partnership with Safe Routes to School. She said additional information will be sent out early next month. She said they also need volunteers to hand out 500 bicycle helmets at Art Fest, but volunteers need to be certified. Mr. Gogoi brought up a YouTube video on an electric unicycle that goes up to 35 mph. Vice-Chair Moser said local governments will need to address these concerns with the influx of electric scooters and electric bicycles. The committee briefly discussed the topic of e-bikes and e-scooters. Mr. Gogoi showed the YouTube video on the e-unicycle he was referring to. The committee continued to discuss the e-unicycles. Mr. Karakos asked about the elections for chair/vice-chair. Mr. Gogoi said they would be held at the January meeting.

### **Agenda Item #11 – Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Information and Distribution Items**

There were no information and distribution items.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.**

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**\*Action Items    +May Require Action**

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