

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., August 25, 2020

Virtual Zoom Webinar

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Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order

The recording of the virtual Zoom meeting started at approximately 9:55 a.m. Mr. Gogoi asked to wait a few minutes for additional members to join. The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Dan Moser at 10:04 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call/Introductions

MPO staff recorded the roll. There was a quorum. Those in attendance included:

From the BPCC

Armand Regnaert	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Cindy Leal Brizuela	Lee County School District
Colleen Bennett	Lee County Department of Community Development
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Dawn Huff	LeeTran
Dominic Gemelli	Lee County School District
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Henry Burden	Member-at-Large
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jason Green	Fort Myers Beach
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Jorge Puente	LeeTran
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Michael Cohn	City of Sanibel
Nancy MacPhee	Visitors and Convention Bureau
Persides Zambrano	City of Cape Coral
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Syndi Bultman	Lee Health

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; Michael Tisch, Deborah Chesna, John Kubicki, and Amy Ao with FDOT; Trent Ebersole with McMahon; Bill Spikowski with Spikowski Planning Associates; Ned Baier and Alayna Delgado with Volkert; Marta Gibbons, a member of the public; John Majka, a member of the public; and Diana Giraldo, 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 July 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the July 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Doug Saxton seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Recommend MPO Approval of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail Feasibility Study Scope

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item to recommend MPO Approval of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail Feasibility Study Scope. Mr. Gogoi provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on study area, project limits, and scope changes. Chair Moser asked why the project terminated at Bonita Beach Road instead of the end of the rail line. Mr. Gogoi explained the project limits were meant to include the Village of Estero and the City of Bonita Springs, but the study area could go beyond the project limits and another alignment could be chosen. He added that the project advisory team may be expanded to include Collier County staff. Mr. Doug Saxton asked if electronic submittals by the public will be accepted. Mr. Gogoi replied yes, this will be clarified and finalized with the chosen consultant and project team. Mr. Gogoi's full presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Rail-Trail-Scope-1.pdf>

Mr. Doug Saxton made the motion to approve the Bonita Estero Rail Trail Feasibility Study Scope. Ms. Jennifer Hagen seconded the motion.

Chair Moser asked if there was any discussion on this item. Ms. Deborah Chesna asked if Mr. Gogoi could show the slide on the project limits again. She asked if this project would meet up with the feasibility study being done in Collier County on the FPL lines. Mr. Gogoi replied that he was not certain as he did not know their limits. He added that the goal was to connect the Paradise Trail in Collier County with the SUN Trail Network in Lee County. Chair Moser asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - Update on the Development of the LeeTran 2021-2030 Transit Development Plan and the Comprehensive Operations Analysis

Ms. Dawn Huff presented this agenda item for the update on the Development of the LeeTran 2021-2030 Transit Development Plan and the Comprehensive Operations Analysis. Ms. Huff gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the LeeTran TDP process, public involvement summary, bus rider survey, short term recommendations, and mid-term recommendations. Mr. Gogoi asked Ms. Huff to elaborate on the enhanced transit on US 41. Ms. Huff explained that it included bus queue jumps and transit priority signals. She then continued her presentation on the Evolve network map with all improvements suggested over the next ten years and information on what is next. MS. Huff also commented on the possible addition of two new express routes that may be added – RSW to Lehigh and RSW to Downtown Fort Myers. Chair Moser asked if mobility on demand had been used elsewhere and if it has been successful. Ms. Huff said she was not certain, but she could gather the information and bring it back. Chair Moser asked if the on demand service would be available anywhere. Ms. Huff replied yes, within a pre-determined zone and that Lehigh was the focus of this mobility on demand service. Mr. Jorge Puente commented that the ADA compliant vehicles will be used to assist with cost and efficiency. Ms. Hagen commented on the logo screen at the beginning of the presentation suggesting a person walking and bicycling should be added to convey the completed streets concept. Chair Moser added that the last mile should be considered. He asked if there were any more comments. There were none. Ms. Huff's entire presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/LeeTran-TDP-Public-Workshops FINAL updated-withoutnarration.pdf>

Agenda Item #7 - Update on the Development of the Lee MPO 2045 Transportation Plan Elements

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item as an update on the Development of the Lee MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Elements. Mr. Gogoi gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on LRTP activities, calculation of revenues for major capital projects through 2045, transit element, fourth alternate model run map, previous 2040 cost feasible project bicycle pedestrian element, 2045 bicycle pedestrian needs plan projects, sidewalk/pathway construction costs, proposed scheduling of priorities from this year and future years, and 2020 project priorities. He asked if there were any questions. Chair Moser asked about the bridges proposed for widening and if cantilevers were still a possibility. Mr. Gogoi said that if some bridge improvements are not done now then they will be part of the needs plan. Ms. Persides Zambrano mentioned the City of Cape Coral had recently approved the third amendment to the surplus toll revenue sharing interlocal agreement with Lee County in which they are asking the County to look at the option of the incorporation of bicycle pedestrian facilities during the construction of the westbound span of Cape Coral Bridge. She added this will still need the approval of Lee County. Mr. Karakos mentioned paperwork from Mr. Michael Tisch for City of Fort Myers projects in the Work Program and questioned the start date. Mr. Tisch replied after July 1, 2021 and he also mentioned that he was also working on the roundabout projects for City of Bonita Springs. Ms. Barraco noted there were two public comments. Ms. Marta Gibbons, a member of the public, commented on the Pine Island Road project study start date of 2021. Mr. Gogoi noted that FDOT had selected a consultant, but these government contracts take time. Ms. Diana Giraldo, a member of the public, commented on plans for closing the sidewalk gaps on McGregor near Whiskey Creek. Mr. Gogoi gave a brief history of the plan adding that the Bike Ped Element consultant was looking at all gaps in Lee County, including those on McGregor. Ms. Giraldo also commented on cantilevering off the bridge on McGregor, Winkler right-turn, and coordinating with Streets Alive for education of the public on the roundabout at Challenger/Winkler. Mr. Karakos said that any assistance would be appreciated, and the next step is a workshop with City Council. He added that after the feedback from the workshop with City Council, the item will be brought to the public. Ms. Giraldo also commented on the Oasis Apartment sidewalks. Chair Moser suggested the Oasis Apartment sidewalk concerns should be dealt with by the City of Fort Myers as it is a local project. Ms. Jennifer Hagen commented on working together and maintaining communication. Mr. Karakos said he would follow-up on the Oasis project and provide additional information. Mr. Gogoi's LRTP presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/LRTP-Update-Highway.pdf>

WALK-ON ITEM – Safe Routes for Schools Application 2021 Cycle

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item on the Safe Routes for School Application 2021 Cycle. He gave a brief Power Point presentation with slides on the SRTS Funding Cycle. He asked Ms. Amy Ao with FDOT when the FY 2020 SRTS infrastructure awards will be announced. Ms. Ao said within the next two weeks. Mr. Gogoi mentioned coordinating with Bonita, Lee County, and Cape Coral for potential SRTS projects. He asked if the Lee County School District will assist and take the lead during this funding cycle. Mr. Dominic Gemelli with the Lee County School District replied yes and asked if the projects are typically identified by local governments and then if applications are submitted by the School District. Mr. Gogoi replied yes, but the school district can also recommend projects and work with the project applicant. He further explained the school district responsibilities included coordination with the local schools, conducting meetings, surveys, and preparing GIS maps. Mr. Karakos asked if mid-block crossings could be included. Mr. John Kubicki replied yes but advised to keep in mind size and scope. Ms. Huff added that those projects closest to the schools are the best. She said that funding should also be considered as smaller projects that are supported by other planned projects have a better chance. Mr. Gemelli noted he could start with the Cape schools and asked if the limits were within two miles of the schools. Ms. Zambrano replied that was correct. Mr. Gogoi noted the County may have two projects, but he was not sure if Bonita would have any. He suggested Ms. Zambrano should work with Mr. Gemelli on sharing past applications and the two schools in the Cape. He asked

if the application has changed. Mr. Kubicki replied it was basically the same. Mr. Gogoi asked to be copied on the school district and Cape Coral emails as the SRTS projects has to be taken through the committees and endorsed. Mr. Kubicki said he could be reached for questions or comments. Mr. Gemelli asked for contact information for local agencies. Mr. Gogoi said he would forward that information to Mr. Gemelli. He thanked Mr. Kubicki and Ms. Ao for attending. Chair Moser asked if the remaining presentation for this agenda item could be brought back at the next meeting due to time constraints. Mr. Gogoi replied yes. Mr. Gogoi briefly showed slides of new City of Fort Myers signs prohibiting bicycles on the sidewalks in downtown. Mr. Karakos added that he would like to present on the resurfacing of McGregor at the next BPC meeting. Mr. Gogoi's entire presentation can be accessed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/SRTS.pdf>

Agenda Item #8 - FDOT/MPO/Local Agency Updates

Ms. Deborah Chesna with FDOT announced the SUN Trail call for projects database will open October 1, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and close December 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. for 2026/2027 Fiscal Year funding. Chair Moser asked if there were any other updates. Ms. Dawn Huff gave a LeeTran update with information on hurricane service, COVID-19 schedule, vehicle cleanings, facility project progress, and TDP/COA estimated completion. Mr. Gogoi then referenced the BPC meeting schedule draft for 2021 and asked for committee feedback. He said the June meeting could be held on the 22 or 29 as there are no July meetings for the TAC/CAC. Chair Moser suggested it might be easiest to keep the fourth Tuesday schedule pattern.

Agenda Item #9 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, commented on SR 80 and the proposed bicycle/pedestrian projects. Chair Moser thanked Mr. Majka for his public comment.

Agenda Item #10 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #11 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:04 p.m.

The entire meeting audio can be accessed here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/08-25-2020-bpcc>

***Action Items *May Require Action**

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