

# BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., April 27, 2021

City Council Chambers, 2200 Second Street, Fort Myers, FL

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## Meeting Minutes

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

The in-person meeting was officially called to order by Chair Randy Krise at approximately 10:00 a.m.

### **Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call/Introductions**

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

#### From the BPCC

Armand Regnaert	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Carie Call	Lee County MPO Citizen Advisory Committee
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
Henry Burden	Member-at-Large
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Jorge Puente	LeeTran
Michael Cohn	City of Sanibel
Pim Tan	City of Cape Coral
Randy Krise	Lee County MPO Citizen Advisory Committee
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi, Don Scott, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; Tom Marquardt with Lee County DOT; Christopher Pierce with the City of Fort Myers BPAC; Matt Leger; Teresa Lewis with Planet Connected and future BPCC member; and Judy Zimmora, Vice Mayor Richard Johnson, and Jacob Ashby with the City of Sanibel.

Mr. Gogoi introduced Ms. Teresa Lewis and explained that she would be the next BPCC At-Large Member after she her nomination is approved by the MPO Board at its May meeting. Ms. Lewis then provided background information on herself. Mr. Gogoi also introduced the City of Sanibel's Manager, Ms. Judy Zimmora. City of Sanibel Vice-Mayor Richard Johnson then introduced himself and those present also representing the City of Sanibel including City Manager Judy Zimmora, Intern Jacob Ashby, and BPCC Sanibel representative Michael Cohn. Vice-Mayor Johnson also provided opening remarks on the history of the shared use path on Sanibel. He then directed Mr. Ashby to provide the presentation on the City of Sanibel Bicycle Pedestrian Accident Report.

### **Agenda Item #5 - City of Sanibel Bicycle Pedestrian Accident Report**

City of Sanibel Intern Mr. Jacob Ashby presented this agenda item on the City of Sanibel's Bicycle Pedestrian Accident Report. The recently published City of Sanibel Bicycle and Pedestrian Accident Report for years 2006-2020 was attached to the agenda packet and posted at the MPO website. The report can also be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/BPCC05-2.pdf> Mr. Ashby gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on methodology, summary of findings, total incidents reported by year and type, location of incidents, age of involved parties,

residency of involved parties, injuries of involved parties, reported accidents by month, total reported accidents by hour, and conclusion. Ms. Zimmora then explained the next steps including processes in place regarding incidents, reporting, and resulting improvements. The committee then discussed data, interaction with vehicles, signage, mid-block paddles, constant monitoring, residences of users of Sanibel pathways, addition of parking, Sanibel's gold level status for biking, status of approval of Bike Ped Master Plan, issues faced due to COVID and staff changes, lack of resources, lessons learned from implementation, data driven processes, quick responses and coordination of staff, seeking grants, integrating departments, coordination of Council and staff, commendation for not using any traffic signals on island, difficulties with per capita evaluations, and straight line diagram for incidents. The entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/City-of-Sanibel-Reported-Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Accidents-Presentation.pdf>

### **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 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. David Wagley made the motion to approve the March 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #6 - Midtown Connectivity Vision**

Ms. Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive of SWFL presented this agenda item on the Midtown Connectivity Vision. She provided a presentation that included slides with information on the mission of Streets Alive, re-imagining the City of Fort Myers bicycle pedestrian facilities, examples from Bogota, Colombia, vision for connectivity of Midtown, examining the bigger picture, inspiration and Complete Streets, lessons shared, Midtown vision maps, photographs of other areas' bike ped facilities, economic development/impact examples, connectivity examples, and possible Fort Myers connections. Ms. Giraldo then invited Ms. Hagen, also a member of Streets Alive, to comment on the Midtown connectivity vision. Chair Krise noted there could be opportunities with redevelopment. Ms. Simone Behr added that visitors surveyed indicated they had a strong interest in bicycling. Ms. Giraldo suggested the BPCC make a motion or recommendation based on some suggestions in one of her presentation slides. Ms. Giraldo's entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/BPAC-Midtown-connectivity-vision.pdf> The committee briefly discussed a data report from Portland, Zillow walk/bike/transit scores. Value of bike/ped amenities, challenges with engineering and code as well as funding, and Midtown as a keystone project. Mr. Karakos promoted action in the form of having the City of Fort Myers incorporate the connectivity feasibility study into the existing Midtown project. Ms. Giraldo said she appreciated the assistance of Fort Myers staff and asked for the BPCC to make a recommendation to help move the project forward. Chair Krise asked for a motion.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion that the City consider implementing Diana Giraldo's *Midtown Connectivity Vision* plan into the City's scope of work for its *Midtown Plan*, as part of an initial "Complete Streets" feasibility study that looks at specific multi-modal opportunities within the Midtown district, and connecting into the Downtown district, with the goal establishing recommendations based on the pros and cons of the study's socioeconomic impacts, and concluding with definable action items/construction elements that can be included in the City's construction phase for the Midtown project. **Mr. Dan Moser seconded the motion.**

Ms. Jennifer Hagen abstained from the vote due to personal involvement as a member of Streets Alive and asked for Mr. Sean Gibbons to briefly comment on the process that Bonita Springs followed. Mr. Gibbons spoke on regulatory framework, need to address drainage and underground utilities, importance of policies that allow for enforcement, and need for coordination. Chair Krise mentioned

there was a motion on the floor. The committee briefly discussed the motion and its possible direction on the City of Fort Myers budgeting, the Midtown project already being accounted for in the budget, developer buy-in, use of portion of existing Midtown funds for feasibility study, and including the feasibility study as a task on the Midtown scope. Chair Krise asked if the committee was ready to vote.

**There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #7 - Update on Hendry Street Pedestrian Mall Concept**

Mr. Matt Leger presented this agenda item as an update on the Hendry Street Pedestrian Mall Concept. He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on pedestrian mall concept, examples in other areas, Hendry Street pedestrian mall idea, Midtown connection, transport connection, destination connection, Midtown district, mixed-use office district, low density residential, intersecting streets, benefits, and Midtown vision plan priorities connection. His entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Hendry-Street-Pedestrian-Study-4.22.pdf> The committee briefly discussed coordination with developers, funding source of study, coordination with City of Fort Myers staff, waterfront asset and using Hendry project to connect Midtown, coordination of Midtown Connectivity project with Hendry Street Pedestrian Mall project, coordination with LeeTran, addressing other modes of transportation, including Fowler in Midtown plan, and consideration of other buildings in area like the Lee County Library Administration on Union Street.

### **Agenda Item #8 - +Report and Review of Changes to USBR 15 Route**

Mr. Ron Gogoi provided an update on the proposed USBR 15 in Lee County. He said that the committee had received a presentation from Adventure Cycling Association on the proposed alignment at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> BPC meeting. Following the presentation, the committee had provided suggestions for route modification. Adventure Cycling has now incorporated those changes, and he showed the route map that can also be viewed at the following link: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/34634828>. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that Adventure Cycling is requesting individual letters of support from the local government entities through which the route travels including the Lee County BOCC and the Cities of Bonita Springs and Fort Myers. He noted that the Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) reviewed and approved the alignment as presented and will take it to the Board of County Commissioners for a letter of support. Once the three local governments endorse the route and provide letters of support, MPO staff will take the route to the MPO Board for endorsement. He asked Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Karakos if they had any information regarding the status of the letters of support from Bonita Springs and Fort Myers. Mr. Gibbons replied that he reached out to Public Works but has not yet received a response. Mr. Karakos replied in the negative and asked if Adventure Cycling could have possibly reached out to other City of Fort Myers staff. Mr. Gogoi said he would coordinate with Adventure Cycling and ask them to reach out to Mr. Karakos. The committee briefly discussed possible bike facility and navigation issues involving Daniels but, in the end, decided to keep the route as is. Chair Krise asked if any action was required from the BPC. Mr. Gogoi replied this agenda item was just an update.

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

There were no agency updates.

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

Mr. David Wagley commented on the bicycle paths in Lee County on Boca Grande. Chair Krise asked if there were places to eat along the paths. Mr. Wagley replied yes and added there is also a state park at the end of the path. Chair Krise asked if there were any other comments. There were none.

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

There were no announcements.

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

There were no information and/or distribution items.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.**

**An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here:**  
<https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/04-27-2021-bpccmp3>

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\*Action Items    \*May Require Action

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