

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., May 25, 2021

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

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Meeting Minutes

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 BPC

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|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Armand Regnaert | Lee County Parks and Recreation |
| Carl Karakos | City of Fort Myers |
| Dan Moser | Injury Prevention Coalition |
| David Wagley | Lee County Department of Community Development |
| David Wheaton | Member-at-Large |
| Dawn Huff | LeeTran |
| Gordon Brown | Village of Estero |
| Jennifer Hagen | Member-at-Large |
| Jorge Puente | LeeTran |
| Lee Waller | Lee County Parks and Recreation |
| Michael Cohn | City of Sanibel |
| Randy Krise | Lee County MPO Citizen Advisory Committee |
| Simone Behr | Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau |
| Teresa Lewis | Member-at-Large |

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO; Allison Evanitz with FDOT's Commute Connect; Arlinda Karuli with Commute with Enterprise; Dominic Gemelli with LeeTran, Deborah Chesna with FDOT, and a member of the public John Majka.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, gave a public comment on Agenda Item #10.

Agenda Item #4 - *Approval of the April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. David Wagley made the motion to approve the April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Gordon Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Commute With Enterprise Presentation

Ms. Allison Evanitz with FDOT's Commute Connect program introduced Ms. Arlinda Karuli with Commute with Enterprise. Ms. Karuli then provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on vanpooling, included features, FDOT subsidy program, cluster and route analysis, connection meetings, commute clean kits, and contact information. Ms. Karuli's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-5-Commute-with-Enterprise->

[BPCCC.pptx](#) She asked if there were any comments or questions. At the request of Mr. Karakos, Ms. Evanitz and Ms. Karuli agreed to include a presentation from Commute with Enterprise in addition to the Commute Connect presentation at the upcoming City of Fort Myers Bike Ped Advisory Board meeting. The committee also discussed additional requirements or screening for Commute with Enterprise drivers, commuter program in Tampa, and number/severity of incidents.

Agenda Item #6 - *Review and Approval of Multimodal Box Fund Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and approval of the Multimodal Box Fund Priorities. He provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on explanations of the funding sources, prioritization process, review of the project priorities tables, Five Year Work Program funding, and Federal and State Funded Priority table. He asked if there were any questions. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-6-Multimodal-Box-Fund-Priorities.pptx> Chair Krise asked if a motion was needed for this item. Mr. Gogoi responded yes. Chair Krise asked if there were any questions. Mr. Gordon Brown inquired on the methodology for establishing the priorities. Mr. Gogoi explained the criteria and the process. He mentioned the Village of Estero projects evaluation and inclusion in the list, explained LeeTran funding, and the signal timing study. Mr. Brown asked about the preconstruction phases. Mr. Gogoi explained the phases and added that he could provide documentation that explains the phases. Mr. Dan Moser asked about the Big Carlos bridge funding. Mr. Gogoi explained the funding contributions to the project. Chair Krise asked if there was anything further on this item or a motion.

Mr. Dan Moser made the motion to approve the Multimodal Box Fund Priorities. Mr. David Wheaton seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

In order to provide additional time to upload presentation to the Council Chamber laptop for Agenda Item #7, Mr. Gogoi asked for the committee to move to Agenda Item #8.

Agenda Item #8 - Update on Proposed Fowler Street/Evans Avenue Improvements

Mr. Carl Karakos presented this agenda item as an update on the Proposed Fowler Street/Evans Avenue Improvements. Mr. Gogoi and Mr. Karakos provided a brief history of the project. Mr. Karakos then provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on history of Fowler and Evans, existing typical sections, proposed typical sections, and proposed interim improvement renderings. The committee discussed extending the project limits, slowing traffic, making the project a complete streets project, and interim improvements. Mr. Karakos continued his presentation with slides on accident sites and progress of the project. He asked if there were any questions. His presentation can be viewed here: https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-8-Fowler-St_Evans-Ave-Improvements_City-Ft-Myers_Draft_v14_rev-2019-TMOC.pptx The committee then discussed paint on Evans, moving the bicycle lanes, adding a separator, business access, slowing traffic, Gardner's Park, side streets along Fowler, traffic studies done, Midtown project, US 41, reconstruction of businesses along Fowler, City of Fort Myers direction to developers, involving FDOT, timing for long term improvements, decision on interim improvements, adding sidewalks, developer involvement, MPO priorities process, ensuring consistent design standards, and moving forward with this project. **Add the topic on improvement to Randy's priorities.**

Agenda Item #9 - LeeTran Bus Facility Presentation

Ms. Dawn Huff with LeeTran provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on ridership comparison data and facility updates for Rosa Parks, South Park and Ride, and Lehigh Park and Ride. Chair Krise asked if there were any questions. Mr. Dan Moser asked if LeeTran was working with the City of Fort Myers on the Midtown project. Ms. Huff said LeeTran staff has been coordinating with Fort Myers staff on the project. Another committee member asked about the Bell

Tower LeeTran facility. Ms. Huff explained the location will be moved across the street with the construction of the South Park and Ride facility. Her presentation can be viewed here: https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-9-LeeTran-BPCC_TAC-Ridership-Project-Update.pptx

Agenda Item #7 - Update on US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge Pedestrian Facility

Mr. Gogoi provided an update on the US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge Pedestrian Facility. The update included a Power Point presentation that provided information on the three options provided by FDOT, age of structure, and replacement schedule. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-US-41-Caloosahatchee-Bridge-Pedestrian-Infrastructure.pptx> Mr. Karakos asked about concerns raised on the project at the MPO Board meeting. Mr. Gogoi explained that a City of Fort Myers Council member raised concerns regarding the impact of the proposed switchback ramp as part of the bridge retrofit on the planned improvements to the Centennial Park. But FDOT assured the member that any construction will be taken after consultation and coordination with City of Fort Myers staff if the project moved forward. Mr. Gogoi added the project is still in the conceptual phase but could progress quickly as a design/build project if the funds are identified. The committee briefly discussed an unsuccessful SUN Trail application that involved a feasibility study on the connectivity of the John Yarbrough Linear Park across the downtown to North Fort Myers via the Caloosahatchee Bridge.

Agenda Item #10 - Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item on the upcoming funding opportunities. He gave a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on overview of funding opportunities, eligibilities, uses of funding, and reauthorization of the Fast Act. The committee briefly discussed funding. Mr. Gogoi's entire presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-10-Funding-Opportunities.pptx>

Agenda Item #11 - FDOT/MPO/Local Agency Updates

Ms. Simone Behr mentioned an upcoming workshop on accessibility being held in person and virtually on June 23. She said she would provide the information for the MPO staff to forward to the committee. Mr. Jorge Puente with LeeTran introduced Dominic Gemelli as the new Principal Planner and reported on upcoming service changes.

Agenda Item #13 – Announcements

Mr. Gogoi announced the June and August meetings will be held in Cape Coral at the Public Works Building where the MPO offices are. He added there is no July meeting. He also mentioned the remainder of the meetings after June and August will be held at the Collaboratory. Mr. Karakos asked if LeeTran could provide clear direction to municipalities on what to plan for up front. A brief discussion followed on improvements, coordination with LeeTran, design coordination before projects start, LeeTran planning fact sheet for developers, bus stop considerations, and school district considerations. Ms. Jennifer Hagen asked if Mr. Puente could forward the planning fact sheet to MPO staff to distribute to the committee. Mr. Puente said he would send it.

Agenda Item #12 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, gave a public comment on the SR 80 project.

Agenda Item #14 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and/or distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be accessed here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/05-25-2021-bpcc>

*Action Items *May Require Action

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO at 239-330-2243 or by email at cbarraco@leempo.com at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired call (800) 955-8770 Voice / (800) 955-8771 TDD. The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or familial status may file a complaint with the Lee County MPO Title VI Coordinator, Calandra Barraco, at 239-330-2243, or in writing at P.O. Box 150045, Cape Coral, Florida 33915-0045.