

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Lee County Administration East Building

2201 Second Street, Room 118

Fort Myers, FL 33901

10:00 a.m.



Meeting Minutes

The in-person meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by BPC Chair Teresa Lewis.

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call/Introductions

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

From the BPC

Armand Regnaert	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Brandon Kaczmarek	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Diane Holm	Injury Prevention Coalition
Gordon Brown	Village of Estero
Henry Burden	Member-at-Large
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Jorge Puente	LeeTran
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Randy Krise	Lee County MPO Citizen Advisory Committee/BPC Chair
Randy Paniagua	Fort Myers Beach
Scott Stryker	Village of Estero
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
Teresa Lewis	Member-at-Large

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Ashley Koza with Lee County Facilities Construction and Management; 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 - *January 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Randy Krise made the motion to approve the January 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Mr. David Wagley seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - Able Canal Design Presentation

Mr. Armand Regnaert with Lee County Parks and Recreation introduced Ms. Ashley Koza with Lee County Facilities Construction and Management who then presented this agenda item on the Able Canal Design. She provided a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on the project details, project background, northern segment, middle segment, southern segment, public meeting comments, before and after renderings, side-streets crossing, and pathway typicals. Her presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-5-Able-Canal-Pathway.pdf> The committee discussed bollards, landscaping, planters, preventing unauthorized

vehicle access, drinking water availability, proximity and connection to Harns Marsh Elementary School, canal maintenance, surface treatments of pathway, and funding for landscaping.

Agenda Item #6 - Review of Carbon Reduction Feasibility Study Scope

Mr. Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers presented this agenda item for the review of the Carbon Reduction Feasibility Study Scope. The staff report with draft scope can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/BPCC06-5.pdf> Mr. Karakos provided a brief background of the study and then reviewed the scope. The committee discussed micromobility, carbon reduction funding opportunities, reviewing literature and examples from other areas, involvement of consultants, providing scope to committee for review, future parking projects in area, traffic volume issues with growth, development of mid-town area, City of Fort Myers Council meeting action items, codification and adoption of Complete Streets policies, and the position on City of Fort Myers council member and city manager's positions on Complete Streets, Micro mobility, and Pedestrian Corridors .

Agenda Item #7 - Lee County Crash Statistics

Mr. Don Scott presented this agenda item on Lee County Crash Statistics. He provided a brief Power Point presentation that included slides with information on bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries over the past several years, bike ped fatality and serious injury locations, day of week and time of day of fatalities and serious injuries, age distribution of bike ped fatalities and serious injuries, emphasis areas of fatalities and serious injuries, statewide fatalities and serious injuries, map of all crashes in state of Florida, and a map of locations of speeding and aggressive driving fatalities and serious injuries. His presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-7-Bicycle-Pedestrian-Crash-Data.pdf> The committee discussed heat maps, investment in high injury and fatality areas and subsequent changes, adding mid-block crossings and medians for safety, reduction in crashes after safety projects, tracking incidents by time of day, ratio of pedestrians to cyclists in data presented, involvement of drugs and alcohol, technology improvements, vehicle miles travelled and rates of comparison used for data, seasonal traffic and consideration of growth, census data, previous bicycle pedestrian counts in Lee County, example of Tampa area, gross numbers and data implications, rates used to enable comparison of data from different areas, Dangerous by Design reports, involvement of elected officials, difficulty in finding quality data to support investment in infrastructure, use of performance measures, following through with adoption of policies, local examples from Fort Myers and Bonita Springs, social determinates of health, funding issues, fee in lieu, economic base, local examples, data platforms, use of consultants to examine crash reports, use of micromobility and mobility options, features of data platforms, access to data platforms, cost of data platforms, examination of each accident in detail to discover if infrastructure would have helped avoid incident, issues of land and money, improving connectivity, and public comment.

Agenda Item #8 - Lee MPO Funding Allocations for FY 2022

Mr. Ron Gogoi tabled this agenda item.

Agenda Item #9 - 3R Projects in Lee County Update

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item as an update to Resurfacing/Restoration/Rehabilitation (3R) projects in Lee County. He highlighted changes to Chapter 114 of the Florida Design Manual resulting from the publication of Roadway Bulletin 22-01. Among the changes were the need for new, or improvement of existing, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, but he cautioned that some of the changes may have unintended consequences that may impact Lee MPO priorities. Staff went on to explain that the new requirements of Chapter 114 may present some difficulty in carrying out this committee's earlier direction to staff to work with FDOT in accommodating bike lanes during the planned resurfacing of San

Carlos Boulevard from North of Hurricane Pass Bridge to Summerlin. FDOT had recently informed staff that they will consider building concrete median separators in place of the continuous two way turn lanes within this segment, and that the minimum width required to install a concrete separator would not leave enough pavement even after lane diets to restripe and add bike lanes within the curb lines. The committee discussed the existing pavement width, speed limit, width of the travel and the two-way continuous turn lanes, the need for speed reduction, lack of bike lane connectivity with adjacent segments, and how the construction of a median separator will compromise multimodal capacity by killing the bike lanes. The committee felt that a consensus statement to FDOT from the committee of their continued support for bike lanes and pedestrian needs is necessary. As part of the discussion on the consensus motion the committee recognized that San Carlos Boulevard is a high-volume constrained corridor, and that the resurfacing project along this corridor segment must look at enhancing safety and connectivity for both pedestrians and cyclists. The committee felt strongly that bike lanes should be accommodated to promote continuity with adjacent segments along the corridor.

Mr. Henry Burden made a motion that it is the consensus of this body that San Carlos Boulevard bike lane and pedestrian needs need to be met as part of the planning and construction process. Mr. Gordon Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gogoi also commented that if pavement width on San Carlos Boulevard from north of Summerlin to Old McGregor Boulevard is tight that bike lanes cannot be accommodated, the MPO may have to consider funding a project in the future to replace the substandard sidewalk with a shared use path.

Mr. Gogoi then provided status updates of ongoing 3R projects along SR 80, SR 739/Business 41, US 41, and SR 78. The committee discussed high speeds on SR 80 within the project limits from Buckingham east to Hendry County line, existing bike ped facilities, paved shoulders versus bicycle lanes, rural classification of SR 80 east of Buckingham, growth and changes along SR 80, its inclusion within the SUN Trail network, safer designs, and discussions on a shared use path in the future.

Mr. Gogoi reported that resurfacing is planned on McGregor from Old McGregor to Whiskey Creek Drive. FDOT had informed that there may be enough pavement to fit in bike lanes in the four-lane section from Old McGregor/Gladiolus to north of College Parkway. The committee then discussed design standards, speed reduction, and options for bicyclist and pedestrians in navigating traffic on McGregor Boulevard.

Mr. Gogoi's presentation can be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-Item-9-3R-PROJECTS.pdf>

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

There were no FDOT/MPO/Local Agency updates.

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

Mr. Brown shared comments on the bicycle map related to the Village of Estero. Chair Lewis entertained the possibility of a name change to the bike ped committee that reflected micromobility. Mr. Karakos commented that 'multimodal' could be used and a name change could be discussed at a future meeting. Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, discussed extending public comment time and then gave a public comment on SR 80 projects. He emailed a presentation to MPO staff during the meeting that was shown at the meeting and can also be viewed here: <https://leempo.com/wp-content/uploads/Images-for-public-comment-3-29-22-fpn-429823-and-fpn-435341.pdf> The committee briefly discussed the public comment time frame. **Mr. Burden made a motion to extend the public comment time frame beyond three minutes. The motion was called to vote and failed.** Chair

Lewis noted that the public comment time would be three minutes. A brief discussion followed on submitting of a request to include the SR 80 project as an agenda item.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and/or distribution items.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed at the following link:

https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/03-29-2022-bpccmp3?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

*Action Items *May Require Action

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