

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Fort Myers Collaboratory

2031 Jackson Street,

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

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
Henry Burden	Member-at-Large/Vice-Chair
Joel DeGuzman	Lee County School District
Jorge Puente	LeeTran
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Pimolmas Tan	City of Cape Coral
Rachel Pierce	City of Sanibel
Randy Paniagua	Fort Myers Beach
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
Teresa Lewis	Member-at-Large/Chair

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; Noah Bourk with Lee Health Trauma; Thomas Marquardt with Lee County DOT; Master Sergeant James Lear; Jodi Walborn with the Blue Zones Project SWFL; Deborah Chesna with FDOT; and a member of the public John Majka.

Chair Lewis asked the newest BPC member, Ms. Rachel Pierce, to introduce herself. Ms. Pierce provided a brief introduction.

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

Mr. John Majka provided a public comment on the meeting minutes.

Agenda Item #4 - *March 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Henry Burden made the motion to approve the March 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Mr. David Wheaton seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *BPC Bylaws Amendment

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the review and amendment of the proposed bylaws changes. He explained MPO staff is proposing amendments to the BPC bylaws in response to questions raised by a municipality on how unexcused or long absences in BPC meetings by non-staff citizen members appointed by that municipality are addressed as the municipality has pointed out the absence of such guidelines in the current bylaws. He further commented that the City of Sanibel and Village of Estero have historically appointed residents from their respective communities who are not

employed by either jurisdiction due to unavailability of staff persons to serve on the BPCC. He noted in the past, the Town of Fort Myers Beach had also once appointed a non-staff resident to serve on the BPCC, and so has the City of Bonita Springs when it was first incorporated. He added that whenever municipalities have chosen this route, staff has asked them to get interested candidates to complete the same application used by our At Large Members, yet the bylaws have not reflected this unique need, nor do the bylaws carry guidelines on how to address unexcused absences. He continued that staff has therefore made the proposed changes to the bylaws to address this issue as well as adding the Blue Zone Project as a non-voting member while also expanding the responsibilities of the BPCC to incorporate micromobility/emerging technologies/bike map production. Mr. Gogoi also reviewed the new section on *Public Comment Procedure for Meeting and Workshops* that has been added to allow a 3 minute time limit to each speaker and also allows the Chair to modify the three minute time limit to a speaker at a specific meeting with the approval of a 2/3rd majority vote of the members present. The revised bylaws were attached to the agenda packet, posted to the MPO website, and shown as slides at the meeting. They can also be viewed here: [BPCC BYLAWS AMENDMENT](#) The committee discussed topics covered for public speaking, typical agenda items that call for public comments, correcting an error in the bylaws calling out five municipalities instead of six in section four part C, public comment time limits, procedure at other meetings for public comments, adding types of micromobility vehicles, spelling out acronyms, adding glossary or definitions, using widely accepted definitions, suspending bylaws vote to next meeting for additional review until the bylaws are approved.

Mr. Henry Burden motioned to table the Bylaws amendment until the next meeting. Mr. David Wagley seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

The committee discussed the changes being made to the bylaws, reasons for tabling the bylaws, providing additional time for review, bringing a clean document back along with the markup for approval at the next meeting, summary of changes being made, and possibility withdrawing the tabling of the item.

Agenda Item #6 - FDOT D1 Pedestrian Bicycle Coordinator Report

Ms. Deborah Chesna with FDOT presented this agenda item to report on the ongoing bicycle pedestrian activities taking place in Florida and in the District. She provided a report on the progress of US BR 15 designation and an update on the SUN Trail Program. She reported that inflation has resulted in an increase of project costs and that there will be a call for new SUN Trail projects. She asked local governments to review a map of the SUN trail map that shows the status of each segment and provide updated information. A link to the map will be made available to the committee. Mr. Burden asked the reason behind not including the existing multi use path on US 70 in the SUN Trail network. Mr. Gogoi said that he will include an agenda item in an upcoming meeting to discuss new Trail proposals to submit for SUN Trail funds.

Agenda Item #7 - Lee MPO Funding Allocations for FY 2022

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item on the Lee MPO funding allocations for FY 2022 that was tabled from the prior meeting on March 29, 2022. He provided a brief background and then gave a Power Point presentation that included slides with information on Statewide Appropriations, Lee MPO SU and TA Allocations and District One Fund Distribution, MPO Planning (PL) funds, and Competitive Grant Programs. His presentation can be viewed here: [Funding Allocations](#) The committee discussed the new carbon reduction formula program, RAISE, and the Healthy Street discretionary grant programs for undertaking bike ped projects, whether discretionary grants covered stormwater drainage work, Chair Lewis felt that there should be a requirement and a standard in Lee County for implementation of green bike lanes which ensued a discussion on the maintenance cost of such facilities to local governments. Mr. Gogoi then invited Master Sergeant James Lear with the Cape Coral Police Department (CCPD) to provide a presentation on three state safety sub grants they received for FY

2022. Master Sergeant Lear noted Sergeant Alisha Cody had also assisted with the grants and presentation information. He reported that CCPD received high visibility enforcement grant for impaired driving, speeding and aggressive driving, and bicycle pedestrian education and enforcement. A history of crashes in Cape Coral resulting from impaired driving and speeding was provided along with where the City ranked among the 34 Cities with populations over 75,000 for such crashes, number of grant operations conducted, the amount of grants awarded, number of stops and citations issued, and arrests made were also provided as part of the presentation. His presentation is available under [CCPD Grants](#) The committee discussed effects of marijuana on driving, the high risk roadways where crashes occurred and complaints of aggressive and impaired driving were reported, and the availability of funds in Lee County.

Agenda Item #8 - Town of Fort Myers Beach Margaritaville Update

Mr. Gogoi provided an update on the Town of Fort Myers Beach Margaritaville Development with assistance from Mr. Randy Paniagua. Mr. Gogoi reported that he coordinated with the Town and TPL to prepare this update. He showed slides which included aerial pictures of the construction in progress, a resort rendering, project schedule, and resort features. The presentation can be viewed here: [Margaritaville Presentation](#) Mr. Gogoi also played a video developed by TPL for this presentation. The video shown can be accessed on the Margaritaville Facebook page at the following link: [Margaritaville Video](#) The committee discussed roadway improvements implemented on Fort Myers Beach, location of bicycle lanes or sharrows, separation of facilities, drunk driving crash resulting in pedestrian death, width of sidewalks, emphasis on law enforcement, variation of speed with time of day, current enforcement, roadway and intersection improvements to be implemented across Times Square as part of the San Carlos Improvement project, beach access changes, additional parking spots, off beach parking, Park and Ride and LeeTran tram services, seasonal changes, examining trends in tourism to determine tram schedule, ensuring business owners know about Park and Ride services, and signage.

Agenda Item #9 - Appointment of a Member to the MPO's Traffic Management Operations Committee

Mr. Gogoi stated that the BPCCC bylaws call for a representative from this committee to serve on the MPO's Traffic Management Operations Committee (TMOC). Participation of a BPCCC member is to provide input and ensure coordination on proposals discussed at TMOC meetings that impact is non-motorized traffic. Mr. Gogoi added that Mr. Dan Moser was the primary member from the BPCCC on this committee with Mr. David Wheaton as the current alternate. Mr. Gogoi said with Mr. Moser leaving the BPCCC, the committee needs to appoint a primary member unless the current alternate, Mr. Wheaton agrees to serve as the primary representative. Mr. Wheaton asked to remain as alternate due to other existing committee commitments. Mr. Gogoi noted that the intent of this bylaws requirement is to pick a representative from among at-large members only as they are able to speak more freely. Chair Lewis asked about the frequency of TMOC meetings. Mr. Gogoi replied the meetings were held every other month. He asked for volunteers. Chair Lewis volunteered.

Mr. Henry Burden nominated Ms. Teresa Lewis as the primary representative for the TMOC meeting. Mr. David Wheaton seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Carl Karakos with the City of Fort Myers mentioned the first week of June is slated for the conversion of First and Second Streets. Ms. Simone Behr with the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau announced the annual travel rally would be held on May 3 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Jodi Walborn with Blue Zones of SWFL mentioned May is bicycle month and noted activities planned by Blue Zones

SWFL. Mr. Jorge Puente with LeeTran mentioned ridership, the mobility on demand project in Bonita Springs, and service changes. Chair Lewis mentioned the Ride of Silence being held on May 18.

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

Mr. John Majka, a member of the public, requested a formal presentation on the SR 80 project as an agenda item. There was brief discussion on the topic of the presentation, outlining the topic and presenting to staff, ensuring interest of group, and ensuring presentation is specific and relevant. Mr. Majka also discussed his concerns regarding the ongoing construction of SR 80 bicycle facilities.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:06 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed here: https://soundcloud.com/user-390911534/04-26-2022-bpccmp3?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

***Action Items *May Require Action**

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