

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Fort Myers Collaboratory

2031 Jackson Street,

Fort Myers, FL 33901

10:00 a.m.



Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

The in-person meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by BPCCC 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 BPCCC

Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
Diane Holm	Injury Prevention Coalition
Farhan Butt	Lee County Department of Community Development
Henry Burden	Member-at-Large/Vice-Chair
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Jorge Puente	LeeTran
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Rachel Pierce	City of Sanibel
Scott Stryker	Village of Estero
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Syndi Bultman	Lee Health Trauma Services
Teresa Lewis	Member-at-Large/Chair
Tracey Walton	Lee Health Trauma Services

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi with the Lee County MPO; Thomas Marquardt with Lee County DOT; Jodi Walborn with the Blue Zones Project SWFL; Sanibel Councilmember Michael Miller; Bill Spikowski with Spikowski Planning Associates; Matthew Dockins with RK&K; Steven Andrews with FDOT; LCSO detail Deputy Mason Weiss.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

Agenda Item #4 - *April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Jennifer Hagen made the motion to approve the April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *BPCCC Bylaws Amendment

Mr. Ron Gogoi stated that he would not go over the changes again as they were presented at the April BPCCC meeting. But he noted that two of the additional changes that the committee had asked including

examples of emerging technology and correction of the reference to the number of municipalities have now been incorporated, and he showed those changes in a slide.

Mr. Henry Burden made the motion to amend the BPCC bylaws. Mr. Scott Stryker seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - *TA & SU Multimodal Box and Carbon Reduction Program Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this item for the review and approval. The priorities, rankings, and evaluation criteria were all attached to the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#). He presented slides of the recommended priorities, total costs of projects, approximate MPO funds available for programming the projects over 7 years covering FY 2022 through FY 2028. He mentioned that evaluation criteria were used to rank only the bike ped projects. He also explained the prioritization process for the projects which included a mix of transit, bike ped and intersection improvement projects. Priority order for the projects were finally assigned after considering factors including whether any of the funding requests had a pre-construction phase already in the pipeline, the 30:50:20 spending ratio respectively that the MPO typically employs to spend available dollar among transit/bike ped/intersection improvements projects, and the ranking of bike ped projects. His presentation can be viewed as slides 3 through 12 at the following link: [PRIORITIES](#)

To a request regarding a clarification on the new Carbon Reduction Program and the projects that were eligible for such funds, Mr. Gogoi responded that staff was waiting on more information from FDOT on the funding strategy and the funding availability. Based on the BIL released directives, the funds can be spent on projects that reduce carbon emissions including purchase of transit buses especially fleet replacement with electric vehicles, bike/ped/trail projects, intersection projects that reduce idling time. There are already projects among the TA and SU multimodal priorities (such as the City of Fort Myers Carbon Reduction Project) that when FDOT make the funds available, staff will be able to work with FDOT to quickly program some projects.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to approve the TA and SU Multimodal Box Fund Priorities. Mr. Henry Burden seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 - Old US 41 PD&E Study Presentation

Mr. Steven Andrews with FDOT introduced Mr. Matthew Dockins with RK&K who then proceeded to present the Old US 41 PD&E Study. Mr. Dockins presentation covered project goals and need, project alternatives, explanation of the new quadrant roadway that cuts across the Greyhound Track property, new traffic signals and roundabouts, evaluation matrix, project timeline, public workshop, comments, next steps, and contact information. The presentation can be viewed here: [OLD US 41](#). Mr. Stryker asked and received clarification on the bike lanes and shared use path width differences in the Collier and Lee County portions. Mr. Dockins also noted that the roundabout option at the intersection of the new quadrant roadway and Old 41 will result in four lanes on Old 41 from the quadrant roadway to Bonita Beach Road but three lanes only (two southbound and one northbound) if the option is a traffic signal. To a question by Mr. Karakos on the type of funds used to fund this study, Mr. Gogoi clarified that the project was funded with the state's (FDOT), Lee and Collier MPO's individual shares of federal allocated dollars.

Agenda Item #8 - Discussion of New SUN Trail Project Proposals

Mr. Gogoi presented this item. He mentioned that this item was in response to the D1 Bike Ped Coordinator's report at the April BPCC meeting regarding a call for new SUN Trail Program proposals either in the fall of this year or early spring next year. MPO staff wanted to have an early discussion

through this item regarding potential projects after looking into the status of the Lee County Sun Trail network in terms of completed and existing trails, gaps, constrained segments etc. He called out segments which could be looked into future proposals including a project on SR 80 east of Buckingham Road, the replacement of the 6' sidewalks in the existing JYLP Trail south of Daniels with at least 10' wide shared use path, replacing 6' sidewalk on the west side of Imperial Parkway where there seems to be available right of way with a shared use path, and considering the gap on Pine Ridge Road connecting San Carlos Road with Summerlin Road for a potential shared use path . In addition, there may be new SUN Trail projects that may come out from the ongoing Rail Trail Feasibility Study, the Ft Myers Downtown Alternative Study which is yet to be funded. He also called out the Kismet Pkwy shared use path east of Del Prado Blvd and the Estero Blvd shared use path west of Big Carlos to Hickory Blvd which have been already submitted for SUN Trail funds. Mr. Henry Burden mentioned that FDOT constructed the eight foot wide shared use path on the south side of SR 80 at 90 degree angles at a few locations where the shared use path alignment changed. He then asked for a motion that FDOT be notified and be asked to fix those angles or post safety signs as they will create unsafe situations for cyclists.

Mr. Scott Stryker made the motion to notify FDOT and ask them to fix the ninety degree turns on the newly installed 8' wide sidewalks on the south side of SR 80. Ms. Jennifer Hagen seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

The presentation can be viewed here: [SUN Trail](#). Mr. Gogoi called upon Bill Spikowski to provide a quick update on the Rail Trail Feasibility Study. Mr. Bill Spikowski announced a June 2nd public meeting to discuss the three alternatives of the study so that the input received can be used towards developing a preferred alternative. There was a discussion that followed on using the rail corridor for multimodal uses including rail and transit and a rail vision. Mr. Spikowski called attention to the Lee MPO conducted rail feasibility study that was from 2013 that already established a vision and rail options, and the resulting efforts from that study to preserve the rail corridor. This had resulted in including language in the individual local governments comp plans to preserve the rail corridor. Chair Lewis asked if the discussion on the rail corridor could come back as an agenda item at the next meeting to get post Jul 2nd public meeting comments. Mr. Gogoi said the committee will get a presentation from the consultant after the feasibility study is completed in October.

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

Ms. Jennifer Hagen reported on a Streets Alive of SWFL presentation to the MPO Board on May 13 requesting supplemental funding for a full time position Lee County bike ped. Ms. Syndi Bultman provided information on the progress of the MPO funded public service announcements (PSAs) completed by local high school students airing on WINK TV channels soon. Ms. Bultman said she would provide links to the PSAs once the production versions are finalized. Mr. Gogoi said Ms. Bultman would be providing a presentation at the June BPCC meeting. Ms. Bultman commented on the topics of her upcoming presentation and gave an example of recent poor driver behavior. Mr. Sean Gibbons reported on Bonita Springs project updates. Mr. Carl Karakos mentioned the upcoming conversions of First and Second Streets. The committee briefly discussed Fowler Street alignments.

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

There were no public comments on items on the agenda.

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 approximately 12:00 p.m.

An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed at the following link: [May 24, 2022 BPCC Audio](#)

***Action Items *May Require Action**

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