

**Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee**  
Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Tuesday, June 27, 2023  
Fort Myers Collaboratory  
2031 Jackson Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
**10:00 a.m.**



## **Meeting Minutes**

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

The in-person meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by BPCC Chair Henry Burden.

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

**MPO staff recorded the roll as those in attendance introduced themselves. There was a quorum. Those in attendance included:**

#### **From the BPCC**

Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Clarissa Diaz	LeeTran
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Dawn Huff	LeeTran
Diane Holm	Injury Prevention Coalition
Henry Burden	Member-at-Large/Chair
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jason Freeman	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Laura Dodd	City of Cape Coral
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Rachel Pierce	City of Sanibel
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
Syndi Bultman	Lee Health Trauma
Teresa Lewis	Member-at-Large/Vice-Chair

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Thomas Marquardt with Lee County Department of Transportation; Alisha Cody with Cape Coral Police Department; Tanya Merkle and Patrick Bateman with FDOT; and Steve Neff with AIM Engineering.

### **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 May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Ms. Teresa Lewis made the motion to approve the May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Lee Waller seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #5 - Presentation on the US 41 at Bonita Beach Road PD&E Study**

Mr. Patrick Bateman with FDOT presented this agenda item on the US 41 at Bonita Beach Road PD&E Study. He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [US 41 at Bonita Beach Road Study](#). Mr. Bateman pointed out that Bonita Beach Road is along the SUN Trail Network and therefore the study is recommending shared used paths on both sides of this roadway within the project limits. He also reported that this was consistent with FDOT's recent policy for substitution of bike lanes with shared used paths in urban situations where posted speed limits are 40 or 45 mph. He reported that the study was going to be completed early next year and that design, right of way, and construction were not yet funded. To a question from Mr. Carl Karakos on cost benefit comparison for the two options, Mr. Bateman replied that an Intersection Control Evaluation was conducted that compared safety, operational cost over the life of the intersection, and capital costs for both options. The cost to build the Displaced Left Turn was higher than building an expanded traffic signal but there were far greater safety benefits associated with the Displaced Left Turn that in the long term the economic benefits resulting from reduction of traffic crashes from the Displaced Left Turn trumped the economic benefits of the Expanded Traffic Signal Option. And it is the same argument why a roundabout would always be a winner vs a traffic signal. To a question from Chair Burden, Mr. Bateman replied that ramps in the transition area would direct cyclists from bike lanes to the shared used paths and that traffic signals around the intersection would determine the locations of those transition points and ramps. To another question he replied that the MUTCD does not allow green colored pavement in crosswalks and that it is only allowed on bike lanes to his knowledge, but he would look into it.

### **Agenda Item #6 - Presentation on the SR 31 and SR 78/Bayshore Road Projects**

Mr. Bateman presented slides of the improvements proposed for the SR 31 PD&E and SR 78/Bayshore Road Capacity Study. His presentation can be found at the following link: [SR 31 and SR 78/Bayshore Road Projects](#). To a question from Chair Burden, he replied that all proposed developments along SR 31 within Lee County were taken into account during the PD&E Study for both SR 31 segments including the 71 acre Mike Greenwell property which was recently rezoned as commercial. He stated that both SR 31 and SR 78 within the project limits were along the SUN Trail Network and therefore the study recommends shared use paths on both roadways.

### **Agenda Item #7 - Midtown Streetscaping Master Planning Update**

Mr. Carl Karakos introduced Mr. Steve Neff with AIM Engineering, the City's consultant on the project. Mr. Neff provided an update using the map, typical sections, and street plans attached to this item in the agenda packet as reference. These attachments are [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. Neff explained each typical section. A context sensitive approach was used to design the streetscape with a target speed of 25 mph or lower for all streets. The consultant in concert with staff had decided to allocate more space to pedestrians and provide street parking on one side following the feedback from the March BPPC meeting. Ms. Teresa Lewis commented that a Fort Myers Council member objected to on-street parking on Jackson Street at a Fort Myers Council workshop, and she advocated for protected bike lanes instead. Mr. Neff expressed caution as that may work against slowing vehicular speed in that corridor. To a comment by Ms. Lewis that there were some questions raised regarding on street parking in the same workshop, Mr. Neff replied that the City Manager made a commitment at the end of that workshop to continue to look at on street parking in the midtown streets.

### **Agenda Item #8 - LeeTran Presentation on Mobility on Demand**

Ms. Clarissa Marino Diaz with LeeTran presented this agenda item on LeeTran's Mobility on Demand services. She provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [LeeTran Mobility-on-Demand](#). To a question from one of the committee members, Ms. Dawn Huff replied that

the Transit Development Plan also recommends Mobility on Demand for North Fort Myers and the City of Cape Coral.

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

Mr. Gogoi presented the Lee MPO updates. He reported that he modified the SUN Trail Priority Table by adding the ped overpass to the scope of the JYLP Enhancement project. LCDOT would maintain the bridge if it is built but would not be responsible for funding the bridge construction. He also reported on a project to install lidar sensors at the Wilson Pigott bridge. His slides can be seen at the following link: [MPO Updates](#) Mr. Sean Gibbons gave an update for the City of Bonita Springs.

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

Chair Burden reported that public comments from a member of the public, Mr. John Majka, were included in the agenda packet. The comments are also [posted to the MPO website](#).

### **Agenda Item #11 - Announcements**

An announcement for the SR 78 public meeting was included in the agenda packet, [posted in the MPO website](#), and was mentioned at the meeting.

### **Agenda Item #12 - Topics for next meeting**

Topics suggested for the August 29<sup>th</sup> BPCC meeting included bike ped metrics used by local governments, Complete Streets Ordinances updates from local governments, and local law enforcement updates.

### **Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items**

There were no information and distribution items.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:07 p.m.**

**An audio recording of the meeting can be accessed at the following link: [BPCC June 27, 2023](#)**

\*Action Items    \*May Require Action

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