

Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee
Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
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 BPC 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 BPC

Alisha Cody	Cape Coral Police Department
Brandon Kaczmarek	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
David Fender	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Rivera	Lee County School District
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Dominic Konieczki	Lee County Sheriff's Office
Henry Burden	Member-at-Large/Chair
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau
Syndi Bultman	Lee Health Trauma
Teresa Lewis	Member-at-Large/Vice-Chair
Tracey Thornton	Lee Health Trauma

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Thomas Marquardt with Lee County Department of Transportation; Jodi Walborn with Blue Zones; Nick Duncan with the Lee County Sheriff's Office; Tanya Merkle and Josephine Mak with FDOT; FDOT consultants Joseph Lauk, Maggie Bruno, and Katelyn Carmona; and Chris Zuppa with Volkert.

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 June 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Teresa Lewis made the motion to approve the June 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Syndi Bultman seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Approval of the SS4A Funded Safety Action Plan Scope

M. Don Scott presented this agenda item for the approval of the SS4A Funded Safety Action Scope that was included in the agenda packet, [posted to the MPO website](#), and reviewed at the meeting.

Ms. Teresa Lewis made the motion to approve the SS4A Funded Safety Action Plan Scope. Ms. Jennifer Hagen seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item #6 - *Approval of the SUN Trail Priorities

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item for the approval of the SUN Trail Priorities that were included in the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). He provided a Power Point presentation that can be viewed at the following link: [SUN Trail Priorities](#)

Ms. Tanya Merkle reported that FDOT is soliciting for SUN Trail proposals that will be considered for funding during the development of the FY 2026 - FY 2030 Work Program. Mr. Gogoi explained the connection between the solicitation notice and the MPO's proposed list of priorities. He provided a summary of the projects and mentioned that the projects were vetted by the committee at earlier meetings.

Mr. David Wagley made the motion to approve the SUN Trail Priorities. Ms. Jennifer Hagen seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed.

Under discussions, Mr. Gogoi presented a table of unfunded priorities from last year and he mentioned that those projects may be considered for funding during the ongoing development of the FY 2025 – FY 2029 Draft Tentative Work Program. FDOT is expected to release the new Work Program by the middle of October.

Agenda Item #7 - Discussion on the FDOT Proposed Collier to Polk SUN Trail Alignment

Mr. Scott presented this agenda item. He provided the background and the context of the Collier to Polk Regional Trail while explaining the OGT Statewide Priority Land Trail Corridors and the Statewide Opportunity Land Trail Corridors Maps. These three exhibits were included in the agenda packet and [posted in the MPO website](#).

Mr. Gogoi explained the difference in funding available for the two top ranked regional priority corridors as compared to the rest of the priority corridors, and the possible impact of this proposed regional trail on funding of the Gulf Coast Trail. The presentation can be viewed at the following link: [SUN Trail Alignment](#)

Agenda Item #8 - Presentation on the Caloosahatchee Bridge Pedestrian Facility

Mr. Joe Lauk, FDOT's consultant for this project, presented the Caloosahatchee Bridge Pedestrian Facility. He explained the bridge cross section and structure mentioning that the expansion gap in the middle will no longer be there after construction with the bridge decks essentially tied together. He also reported on the construction schedule and discussed the MOT practices and the detour to be followed using the Edison Bridge while the construction is under way. His presentation can be accessed at the following link: [Caloosahatchee Bridge Ped Facility](#).

Agenda Item #9 - Traffic Enforcement Report

Mr. Nick Duncan with the Lee County Sheriff's Office provided an overview of traffic enforcement policy followed by the agency. Hot spots included Estero Boulevard and the Town Square Area in Fort Myers

Beach, Old 41 north of Rosemary Drive, and US 41 and Pine Island Road at the proximity of US 41/SR 78 intersection. His slides can be viewed at the following link: [LCSO Traffic Enforcement](#)

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

Ms. Jennifer Hagen discussed the Lee Health survey information that can be found at the following link: [Healthy Lee](#)

Agenda Item #10 - Discussion of Proposed Amendment to the BPCC Bylaws

Chair Burden mentioned that Agenda Item #11 was taken out of order causing this item to be skipped over. Mr. Gogoi asked if any of the committee members had reviewed the updated bylaws document that was attached to the agenda packet and [posted to the MPO website](#). Mr. David Wagley asked about the red and blue notations in the document. Mr. Gogoi quickly summarized the main changes and suggested deferring the item to a future meeting. He asked those with comments to call him or send him their comments. Mr. Gogoi reminded the committee members that the October 24th BPCC meeting will be a joint meeting with Collier MPO's Bike Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC). He suggested that the BPCC could meet immediately before or immediately after the joint meeting on October 24th to discuss the bylaws and then bring them back for a vote at the November meeting. He also provided a list of items that the Collier MPO BPAC suggested for the joint meeting agenda including a US BR 15 status update, Bonita Estero Rail Trail update and litter/debris removal, Moving Florida Forward projects, law enforcement updates, micromobility ordinance update, and distracted driving campaign. Mr. Gogoi asked if the Lee County MPO BPCC members had any ideas for items. The BPCC members suggested local micromobility ordinance efforts, and fatality/serious injury updates for both counties. The committee discussed the possible November 28 BPCC meeting conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday, but all members present agreed to hold the November 28 meeting. Chair Burden suggested discussing the bylaws in October and voting in November. Mr. Gogoi said the joint meeting could start at 9:30 a.m. for the Lee County BPCC members to discuss the bylaws changes. Those present agreed.

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

There were no public and/or member comments on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #13 - Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #14 - Topics for next meeting

Topics suggested for the next BPCC meeting, which is a joint meeting with the Collier MPO's BPAC, were discussed under Agenda Item #10 and can be viewed at the following link: [Joint Meeting Topics](#)

Agenda Item #15 - Information and Distribution Items

There were no information and 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: [BPCC September 26, 2023](#)

*Action Items +May Require Action

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