

**JOINT COLLIER MPO BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND LEE MPO BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**The Collaboratory
2031 Jackson Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901
October 26, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Called to order by Mr. Ron Gogoi at 10:05 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll was recorded. There was a quorum.

Collier BPAC Members Present: Anthony Matonti, Dayna Fendrick, Joe Bonness, Patty Huff, George Dondanville

Lee BPCC Members Present: James Lear, Carrie Call, Colleen Bennett, Armand Regnaert, Teresa (Terri) Lewis, Syndi Bultman, Scott Stryker, Gordon Brown, Pim Tan, Tom Marguardt, Dan Moser, Michael Cohn, Simone Behr, Jorje Puente, Nancy Crocker, Sean Gibbons, Lee Waller, Carl Karakos

Collier MPO Staff Present: Anne McLaughlin, Scott Philips, Danielle Bates

Lee MPO Staff Present: Don Scott, Ron Gogoi

Others Present: Michael Tisch (Collier Transportation Planning), Deborah Chesna (FDOT), Victoria Peters (FDOT), Tanya Merkle (FDOT), Michelle Avola-Brown (Naples Pathways Coalition), Jim Wood (Kimley Horne), Natalia Lercari (McMahon Assoc.). Trent Ebersole (McMahon Assoc.), Ned Baier (Volkert), Jodi Walborn (Blue Zones), John Majka (citizen)

3. Election of a Chairperson

Mr. Bonness (Collier BPAC Chair) nominated Mr. Dan Moser (Lee BPCC Vice Chair) to chair the meeting. Mr. Matonti seconded. Mr. Moser was elected by consensus to Chair the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Brown moved to approve the agenda. Second by Mr. Dondanville. Carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

None.

6. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. District 1 Bike Ped Coordinator Report

Ms. Chesna presented the [Active Transportation Plan](#). The presentation highlighted the need for the plan, and included data from existing facilities, crashes, and survey results. The plan includes toolkits. Her hope is that all MPOs agree with the methodology and take it further to eliminate gaps and to prioritize spending and funding using better data and decision-making process. FDOT is highly prioritizing safety. Mr. Moser asked if this would be moving forward. Ms. Chesna responded that now they are gathering input from MPOs and committees and it will be taken to higher levels at FDOT.

B. New Collier and Lee County Bike Ped Projects in the 2023 Draft Tentative Work Program

Ms. Peters provided an overview of the Draft Tentative Work Program for Lee County. Sampling of highlights: paving improvements in Fort Myers Beach, sidewalks for the Village of Estero, Gator Circle sidewalks in Cape Coral, US 41 and Terry Street Intersection safety project, and East Terry shared use path,, . Mr. Gogoi showed a PowerPoint of Lee MPO 2021 bike/ped priorities noting the ones that had been programmed: [Tentative Work Program PowerPoint](#).

Ms. Peters also provided an overview of the [Draft Tentative Work Program for Collier County](#). Some highlights were 91st Ave from Vanderbilt Beach Road (VBR) to US 41, a corridor study for Vanderbilt Beach Rd from Airport Road to Livingston Road, 2 bike/ped projects, finishing funding for other projects, and a Safe Routes to School grant for Lavern Gaynor Elementary School. Ms. Lewis asked if construction costs include planting trees. Ms. Peters explained it depends on the project, most projects include basic landscaping like grass in the median, but when municipalities request more they take over the maintenance. Sometimes landscaping does go in the Work Program.

C. Paradise Coast Trail Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Wood with Kimley Horn provided an update on the [Paradise Coast Trail Feasibility Study](#). The study is led by Ms. Avola-Brown with Naples Pathways Coalition, with Kimley Horn as the consultant, FDOT, Collier County, and the City of Naples as partners, and Collier MPO as the study advisor. The plan includes a north connection to the Estero/Bonita Springs Trail along with connections to Naples, Golden Gate City, Ave Maria, Immokalee, and the new County sports complex. The study launched in April and most of the data collection phase has been completed. Hoping to be done with the study in May 2022. The PowerPoint included maps, the purpose for the trail, and process overview.

D. Estero Bonita Rail Trail Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Baier with Volkert provided an update on the [Rail Trail Feasibility Study](#). There are three alternatives being studied: Rail-to-Trail, Rail-with-Trail, and a trail alignment within road Right-of-Way (ROW). The PowerPoint included planning level construction costs, ROW, road/trail crossings, and utilities for each alternative along with the opportunities and challenges each alignment has. The next steps include meeting with elected officials and municipalities and launching a comprehensive

communications plan. The study is planned to conclude in August 2022. Mr. Gogoi mentioned that the appraisal and negotiation with Seminole Gulf Railway has been paused due to the volatile market but the process may resume next year. Mr. Baier added that such pauses are common, also happened in Sarasota for a similar project. Mr. Karakos asked about the cost, looking at \$100-\$220 million for just planning, not including the cost for the railway ROW; what kind of funding they can get, and why has the environmental process started for all alternatives rather than waiting for the preferred one? Mr. Baier responded that they're using the FDOT cost estimating tool to forecast costs, the intent is to keep eligibility for SUN Trail funds, there are also at least 4 governments and municipalities that could participate to share some of the cost. Planning level environmental information is being gathered for all three alternatives now, but a more detailed study will be done for the preferred alternative later.

E. Bike Ped Facility Updates on Regional Road Projects

Mr Scott presented an update which can be viewed here: [Bike Ped Facilities on Region Roads](#) Mr. Gibbons clarified that Bonita Springs is waiting on the final alignment for Old 41 to decide on the sidewalks. Mr. Scott also mentioned that Bonita and Collier can hopefully work together and use the same engineering firm for Old 41 design phase.

F. SUN Trail Program Update

Ms. Chesna gave a brief presentation of the SUN Trail Program. The FDOT Work Program instructions require the Chief Planner to sign off on design variances. Funding is very limited, FDOT will protect previous public investments by programming the next eligible phase of previous SUN Trail projects but is not anticipating a SUN Trail solicitation for new projects in the foreseeable future.

Ms. McLaughlin gave an overview of Collier SUN Trail opportunities The MPO deleted the loop through Rookery Bay as part of the adoption of the 2019 Bike/Ped Master Plan, but it remains on the official SUN Trail network map for the time being. The Bike/Ped Master Plan proposes connecting the SUN Trail alignment [on US 41] to Marco Island. Collier received funds from SUN Trail for a PD&E on the FPL easement adjacent to Livingston Rd, connecting to Rich King Greenway to the south and Lee County SUN Trail network to the north. Ms. Huff asked what the MPO had planned to complete the 2-mile gap in the Shared Use Path on US41. Ms. McLaughlin responded that the MPO is working on getting it funded through FDOT as part of a road project, rather than through SUN Trail funding which requires local maintenance. The road project is in the 2045 LRTP [Cost Feasible Plan.]

Mr. Gogoi gave an overview of seven projects in the SUN Trail Network in Lee County. Ms. Tan provided details of Cape Coral's Kismet Parkway Trail from Burnt Store Road to NE 24th Avenue. .. Mr. Karakos gave an update on the Fort Myers project of the John Yarbrough Linear Park Multi-Use Trail Extension from Colonial Boulevard to Hanson Street. This includes a proposed pedestrian bridge over Colonial Boulevard and the different aesthetic options being considered. Mr. Matonti asked if there was push back to the bridge proposal because a similar project is proposed in Collier. Mr. Karakos explained there was some push back about whether an at-grade crossing makes more sense in that location. Mr. Gogoi called out projects from Lee County in the queue for future SUN Trail funds: Phase 3 construction of Kismet Parkway from Del Prado Boulevard to NE 24th Avenue with a price tag of, almost \$3 million; the Caloosahatchee Downtown Multimodal Alternative Study with a price tag of \$650,000 plus a \$200,000

local match; and the design and construction of the CR 865 Multi Use Trail connecting Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Springs.

The PowerPoint for this item can be viewed here: [SUN Trail Updates](#)

G. USBR 15 Expansion Efforts Update in Lee & Collier County

Mr. Gogoi provided an overview on [US Bike Route 15 extension efforts in Lee and County, and the status of Resolutions of Support in Lee and Collier County](#). He then invited Ms. Huff who volunteers for Adventure Cycling Association to speak on the status of the extension efforts in other parts of the state. Ms. Huff explained that the proposed bike route does not require any funding or construction as it uses existing facilities, the route map serves as a guide for long distance cyclists. There is a designated route on the Florida's east coast but none on the west. US Bike Route 15 would connect to existing routes in Georgia. Continuing to work with all of the counties that would have the route. The progress can be monitored at ridewithgps.com/routes/34634828. Once all the affected counties and municipalities submit letters of support, it can go to AASHTO for approval, hopefully in April 2022. The route can be updated twice a year if needed, this could include the Paradise Coast Trail and the Estero Bonita Rail Trail. The PowerPoint for this item can be viewed here: [\(Insert PPT\)](#)

H. 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Bike Ped Program Highlights

Skipped due to time constraints

7. Public & Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Mr. Majka made public comments on SR 80. Mr. Majka presented his own PowerPoint. Mr. Majka wants a PD&E study for this section of SR 80.

7. Information & Distribution Items

None.

9. Next Meeting Date

None.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Gordon moved to adjourn. Second by Mr. Regnaert. Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.