

SRTS MEETING

Fort Myers Regional Library, Room A
1651 Lee Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tuesday, May 23, 2017



Meeting Minutes

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Those in attendance included David Agacinski with FDOT, Dawn Huff with the Lee County School District, Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO, Andy Getch and David Wagley with the Lee County Department of Community Development, Sally Kirkland with the City of Sanibel, Dan Moser with the Injury Prevention Coalition, Sean Gibbons with the City of Bonita Springs, BPCC member David Wheaton, Dave Murphy with LCDOT, and Tom McGlohon with Lee County School District Transportation Department.

Agenda Item #S1 - Vetting of Potential Projects for SRTS Program Funds

Dawn Huff with the Lee County School District presented power point slides for this non-action item. She introduced Tom McGlohon with the Lee County School District Transportation Department. She also introduced Nena Garrett, the BPCC representative from the Lee County School District, who was not present at the meeting. Ms. Huff stated Mr. McGlohon and Ms. Garrett had compiled a list of hazardous walking conditions. She added they had reviewed the projects identified on roadway segments which will correct a school district identified hazardous walking location. She explained there were three projects chosen from the list. She stated \$1.7 million in projects have been funded. She commented that some projects were going to be or were submitted through SRTS but weren't funded under it. She said those projects were submitted through other types of funding. She said they have received just over \$4 million for those non-SRTS projects. All SRTS candidate projects are sidewalk infrastructure projects within 2 miles of existing schools, that when implemented, will enhance safety and pedestrian mobility for school children. She explained the requirements for the projects. She also discussed factors that would make projects ineligible. She noted that SRTS funds are available through FDOT on a cost reimbursement basis. She went over the process for submittal of projects. She introduced the candidate projects in Lee County for Florida Safe Routes to School Program funds. The candidate projects are listed below for the next round of FDOT SRTS Program funds.

The candidate projects for SRTS funds are as follows (without any particular priority order) and as shown in **Attachment A**:

1. SR 80 from Buckingham Road to Werner Drive
2. Moreno Avenue from Broadway to Fowler Street, City of Fort Myers and Lee County
3. Littleton Road from NE 24th Avenue to Hutto Road, Lee County
4. Shriver Avenue from Dean Street to Ragsdale Street, City of Bonita Springs

Agenda Item #S2 - Report on School District Identified Hazardous Locations in Lee County

Dawn Huff with the Lee County School District presented this non-action item to report on hazardous walking condition locations that were identified and evaluated. She explained the laws requiring the identification of and the criteria for identifying the hazardous conditions. She said one of the laws is House Bill 41. Several attendees commented on speed limits. Ms. Huff continued her presentation with more of the criteria for hazardous conditions including uncontrolled roads with speed limits in excess of 50 mph and roads wider than six lanes regardless of speed limits. She commented on the procedural requirements. She also suggested meeting with the local governments to determine how

to fund the other locations on the list and to place them on the work plans. Ms. Huff stated there were three hazardous walking locations she would like submitted to SRTS. They are as follows without any priority or order:

1. Grant Blvd and Milwaukee Blvd from Bell Boulevard to Mirror Lakes Elementary
2. Gladiolus Drive, north side from Winkler Road to Heights Elementary
3. SR 82, Palm Beach Boulevard, south side from Buckingham to Werner Drive

Ms. Huff said following up on these identified projects is important as they are liabilities and also because they are enforced. She showed maps of each of these projects and further explained each as well. She stated the SR 80 project segment had been shortened. Mr. Gogoi explained there was already other funding for a pathway on the segment that was removed. Ms. Huff stated the Gladiolus Drive location requires students to be bused due to hazardous conditions. An attendee requested Ms. Huff speak to her transportation department about busing in this area as there are sidewalks on both sides. Ms. Huff stated it was possible she had an older aerial and questioned when the sidewalks were added. The committee member replied that it was done when the road was widened. She noted the location could be removed from the list and one of the others from the total list of six could be added. She noted that only five could be submitted anyway. She added that the locations on her list were just suggestions, and the local governments could suggest projects as well.

An attendee mentioned the county was looking at improvements to Littleton in the next five years. Ms. Huff said the Littleton project could be removed from her list. Another attendee said it was on the Gulf Coast Trail pathway alignment.

Ms. Huff asked if any one present had project ideas. An attendee asked about the parking lot conditions at Rayma C. Page and students being told they could not walk to school. Another attendee commented that all of those students are bused due to the location of the school directly on US 41. A comment was made about latent demand and the reason there are no students walking is because it is not safe. A suggestion was made to make the conditions safe and the students would be able to walk. The two-mile radius criteria was questioned as the Island Park area might be out of that. Ms. Huff brought up an aerial of the location. The attendees made suggestions for possible pathways to the school. There was also a discussion on the requirements for railings along highways and bridges as well as the speed limits associated with these.

The discussion switched to the Moreno Avenue project. An attendee stated drainage issues would be a challenge, and the total cost estimate he formulated was over \$500,000. Other issues he mentioned were right of way and maintenance. He continued that the county portion was about \$250,000 since 45% is in Lee County and 55% is in the City of Fort Myers. Andy Getch mentioned a survey would be necessary to determine right of way. There was a brief discussion on right of way between a few attendees. There was another concurrent discussion on funds, other projects, and getting the meeting back on track.

A suggestion was made to have the BPAC rate the hazardous locations to prioritize for funding. Ms. Huff said she would like to set up meetings to speak with the various groups about that. An attendee noted that from what he could recall, it wasn't necessary for the local governments to immediately fund but it was necessary for them to prioritize and address. Ms. Huff acknowledged there was a time frame.

She then asked which roads were specified near Fort Myers High School. An attendee stated, at the time, it was just Cortez. It was also suggested to go from US 41 to McGregor along Llewellyn and First Street along the back of Lion's Park. Carl Karakos mentioned that the City of Fort Myers was funding a short segment. There was a discussion on the location of that segment and where sidewalk is missing in that area. Ms. Huff suggested SRTS funds could be used to pick up where the already City funded location ends. Mr. Karakos said he would get the information to Ms. Huff regarding the specific segment location. Mr. Gogoi asked if this project could replace the one that was removed. Ms. Huff stated the project removed was Edison Park.

Ms. Huff then questioned if the project for the City of Bonita was on the east or west side. An attendee responded that he was almost certain it was on the east. Mr. Gogoi asked about Dean Street in Bonita. An attendee said he would check and get back with Mr. Gogoi on that.

Ms. Huff stated Moreno may not be considered because of the cost. She asked if there was another way to fund that project since the school had been requesting it for a while. An attendee responded that he wasn't aware of any other funding sources for it.

Ms. Huff stated Shriver was a possible project. She verified that Littleton was being done by the county. An attendee said it was a high priority, and he would send the schedule to Ms. Huff. An

attendee asked if the projects, like Harns Marsh, that did not get funded would be resubmitted. Ms. Huff said yes, if the issues that caused them to not be funded can be corrected. Another attendee asked about Tice Elementary design and construction funding. Another attendee said they would find out.

Another attendee asked about the Milwaukee project. There was a brief discussion about who owned the bridge in that location and who would maintain that.

Mr. Gogoi commented on the previously submitted projects. He asked if the other projects on Cortez should replace the Edison Elementary project. Ms. Huff said there aren't many students at that location and that is part of the reason it wasn't selected. She suggested the other two that were previously submitted should be resubmitted. Mr. Gogoi read the information on the Littleton project saying Construction is in FY 21/22, Professional Services in 2019, and Land in 2020/2021. An attendee said that means the entire project is funded.

Ms. Huff mentioned a community member called her and said there was a request for a sidewalk along Plantation.

Ms. Huff then summarized the projects saying there was one in Fort Myers by Fort Myers High School, one in Bonita on Shriver, one in Lehigh on Grant/Milwaukee, and another in Lehigh on Coolidge. An attendee asked if the condition had to be hazardous. Ms. Huff responded that the projects are prioritized if they are. An attendee said one of the points of emphasis is the amount of students walking to school, and Bonita Elementary has a high walking percentage.

Ms. Huff said the District is active in educating students for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Tom McGlohon asked about the new Bonita High. Ms. Huff said she was working with Steve Jansen on that.

An attendee asked David Agacinski with FDOT if the maintaining agency is responsible for overages if a project costs more than allotted by funding. Mr. Agacinski said he would check on that. The attendee then asked if the funds would be reimbursed if the maintaining agency fronts it. Mr. Agacinski said the slide said it was a reimbursement program. Ms. Huff agreed. Mr. Gogoi said he would bring it to FDOT attention that the SR 80 project is on a state highway, it has been deemed hazardous, and they should fund it. He asked if the project limits should be expanded all the way to Werner. An attendee asked how much the cost would go up. Mr. Gogoi said it would go up significantly. The attendee then suggested the project could be segmented. Mr. Gogoi said it would benefit FDOT as they are responsible for addressing hazardous walking conditions on state highways. He noted that the fact it is on the MPO Priority list makes it more credible. Ms. Huff said that she was done. Mr. Gogoi announced that the regular BPCC meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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