

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., January 28, 2020
SW Florida Community Foundation Collaboratory
2031 Jackson Street, Suite 100, Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-244-2220



Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Jennifer Hagen at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call/Introductions

Those present introduced themselves. There was a quorum. Those in attendance included:

From the BPC

Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Colleen Bennett	Lee County Department of Community Development
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
David Wheaton	Member-at-Large
Dennis Petracca	Lee County Sheriff's Office
Diane Holm	Injury Prevention Coalition
Dominic Konieczki	Lee County Sheriff's Office
James Lear	Cape Coral Police Department
Jennifer Hagen	Member-at-Large
Jodi Walborn	Safe Routes to Schools/Johns Hopkin's
Jorge Puente	LeeTran
Lee Waller	Lee County Parks and Recreation
Randy Krise	Lee MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee
Roger Lloyd	Lee County School District
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau

Others in attendance included Ron Gogoi and Brian Raimondo with the Lee County MPO; Marta Gibbons with the Matlacha Association; Diana Giraldo with Streets Alive; Manuel De La Vega with the City of Fort Myers; Trent Ebersole with McMahan; David Murphy with the Lee County Department of Transportation; Marcus Evans with the Lee County Department of Community Development; and Deborah Chesna with FDOT.

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 the December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Randy Krise made the motion to approve the December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 - *Election of Officers

Mr. Ron Gogoi presented this agenda item as a call for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020. He said the BPC bylaws do not allow officers to serve consecutive terms in the same office and call for the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year. He noted

the bylaws do allow the current Vice-Chair, Mr. Dan Moser, to automatically become the new Chair for the new calendar year if he accepts the position. He continued that if Mr. Moser accepts the Chair position for 2020, then the committee will have to call for nominations for a new Vice-Chair from among its membership.

Mr. Carl Karakos made the motion to elect Mr. Dan Moser as Chair. Ms. Simone Behr seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gogoi then asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Carl Karakos asked if anyone else was interested in becoming Vice-Chair besides Ms. Hagen. Ms. Hagen asked if anyone else would like the position. No other committee members responded.

Mr. Randy Krise made the motion to elect Ms. Jennifer Hagen as Vice-Chair. Mr. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6 - US 41 3R Project Update

Ms. Deborah Chesna, FDOT's District 1 Bike Ped Planning Coordinator, presented this agenda item to report on FDOT's determination on the construction of bicycle keyhole lanes or some other alternative on US 41 during the upcoming 3R, resurfacing, rehabilitation and restoration project from Hickory Drive to Emerson Square Boulevard. Ms. Chesna referenced the Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies that were passed noting the new directive is for separated facilities on streets with speed limits of 45 miles per hour or greater. She added the department is getting estimates to fix the sidewalk and place multi-use paths on both sides of the road to achieve the goal of separated facilities. The committee discussed other projects in District 1, reduction of speeds, alternative treatments, existing facilities, explanation of keyholes, evaluating the entire community/whole system, establishing a vision for bicycle/pedestrian facilities in advance, electric bicycles/unicycles/scooters, land use matching the roadway, project start date, possible public involvement on new policy, plan to replace/design/fund sidewalk, roadway shoulders, future of existing bicycle lanes, list of projects that will change due to new policy, conforming to Federal policies, making shoulders wider, turn lane design, changing driver culture, taking concerns to higher officials in Florida, keeping the committee posted on pathway progress, maintenance concerns, examining SR82 according to new policy, examining SR80 according to new policy, possibly making a motion against new policy, and accommodating all modes in every project. Ms. Hagen asked what feedback was needed for Ms. Chesna to take back. Ms. Chesna said that bullet points could be compiled and sent to her so she could present them at her next meeting with her supervisors. The committee continued with discussions on design of intersections, crosswalks, use of shoulders for emergency vehicles/breakdowns, increased legislation to protect alternative modes, price breakdown for keyholes, scoping projects properly, and US41 project history. Mr. Gogoi said that L. K. Nandam had previously expressed interested in attending a BPCC meeting to discuss these policy changes. He asked Ms. Chesna to try and coordinate that. Ms. Hagen thanked Ms. Chesna for attending.

Agenda Item #7 - Request for Transportation Project Priorities for FY 2026

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item as a request for Transportation Project Priorities for FY 2026 as the schedule for submitting project priorities for consideration during the development of FDOT's FY 2021 – FY 2026 Tentative Work Program is fast approaching. He reviewed the MPO's available funding and candidate list of projects. He added considering that we have a lot of unfunded priorities from last year, staff is not accepting any new projects. He mentioned LeeTran bus purchases, the sidewalk pavers for Fort Myers Beach, and the Bonita Springs projects. The committee briefly discussed the congestion management projects and funding. Mr. Gogoi reviewed the one new project, the proposed LCPA Skyplex Greenway. He also discussed the Richmond Bridge project and several roundabout projects. The committee briefly discussed the Skyplex Greenway project. Mr. Krise asked Mr. Gogoi

to send him information on the Skyplex project. Mr. Gogoi said he would have more information at the next meeting, noting this initial amount of funding is only for permitting and mitigation. The committee continued to further discuss this project. Mr. Gogoi continued his presentation with the review of other projects on the list including Cape Coral projects, and the committee discussed these projects. Ms. Hagen asked about the box culvert project in Lehigh near the new schools. Mr. David Murphy explained the current situation regarding that project. The committee further discussed the project and asked for additional information/updates to be brought back at the next meeting. Mr. Murphy noted the county would maintain the bridge and the roadway if the School District constructs it. Mr. Krise said he would bring this up at the next School Board member meeting. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the schedule for new priorities to be sent to FDOT includes information packages due by February 1, 2020, a preliminary list of project priorities due by March 15, 2020 and the final approved list of priorities due by July 1, 2020.

Agenda Item #8 - Post TIGER Bike Ped Counts and Crashes

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item on the Post-TIGER Bike Ped counts and crashes. He said the MPO contracted FTE Inc to conduct counts of pedestrians and bicyclists on all the bicycle and pedestrian facilities that were built as part of the TIGER grant per FHWA grant requirements. He then reviewed the 'Before' counts done in 2015 and the 'After' counts done in 2019 along these facilities, bus stop loading at the new stops, and also bike ped crashes that have occurred along these facilities since their construction. He noted these counts will be done for another five years, until 2024. He showed the locations of the counts and gave the dates/times counts were done. The committee discussed the weather on the date of the counts, the reasoning for only using counts from one day instead of multiple days, and lighting for cameras to record counts at night. Mr. Gogoi continued his presentation with a summary of the counts, bicycle/pedestrian crashes/injuries/damages, and bus stop use. The committee briefly discussed the bus shelters, bus stops, ridership, planning routes/stops for projected growth, and wayfinding signs.

Agenda Item #9 - Florida Bicycle Related Legislation

Mr. Gogoi presented this agenda item on the Florida Bicycle Related Legislation for 2020. He said the 2020 Legislative session includes SB 1148, a bill sponsored by Senator Brandis, which covers Electric Bicycles. Mr. Moser discussed existing electric bicycle laws and the changes this new legislation brings. Mr. Gogoi then reviewed the wording of the bill. The bill includes the following wording:

SB 1148: Electric Bicycles – Revising definitions relating to the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law; requiring the driver of a vehicle overtaking an electric bicycle to pass the electric bicycle at a certain distance; expanding exceptions to a prohibition on persons driving certain vehicles on sidewalks and bicycle paths; providing electric bicycle regulations; requiring electric bicycles to comply with specified provisions of law; authorizing operators to ride electric bicycles where bicycles are allowed, etc. Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Community Affairs; Rules.

The committee further discussed this bill, related issues with bicycle classes and speeds, enforcement, safety concerns, and working with local governments for regulation. Mr. Gogoi continued his presentation on micromobility devices, local ordinances, and state laws governing use. The committee briefly discussed local ordinances and micromobility devices. Mr. Gogoi showed a YouTube video of a Naples man riding an electric unicycle, noting the maximum speed on the device is 38 miles per hour. The committee briefly discussed the classification of the electric unicycle. Mr. Gogoi related this back to the earlier discussion on bicycle lanes. He also mentioned how the increase in the use of these devices may result in an increase in injuries. The committee further discussed electric mobility devices, Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and public input.

Mr. Gogoi then moved on to the proposed legislation regarding crosswalks. The committee discussed the types of signals this would apply to. He then reviewed the proposed legislation concerning

increasing penalties for those drivers causing bodily injury or death to vulnerable road users. The committee further discussed this topic including penalties, hit and runs, criminal versus civil infractions, recent local pedestrian deaths caused by vehicles, and accident scanners used by law enforcement agencies. Mr. Gogoi mentioned the Memorandum of Understanding between the MPO and the Cape PD for a terrestrial scanner that is being brought through the committees.

Agenda Item #11 - Public and Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Ms. Diana Giraldo asked about the map printing of the latest update, referring to past meeting minutes. Mr. Raimondo said it is still in the process of being updated. Ms. Giraldo asked for an update at each meeting to track progress. She also asked for GIS map layers that could be uploaded to various websites. She asked for a motion to be made regarding the map update completion. The committee discussed the production of a county wide map that incorporates data from each municipality, layering system continuity, City of Fort Myers completion date, shape files/maps being made available, placing this item on each meeting agenda, creating a user map, ensuring programmed facilities are on updated map, working on deadline for map update, listing different facilities, expense of online GIS, getting technical people together to update the map, finding examples from other areas, ensuring functionality of updated map.

Agenda Item #10 - FDOT/MPO/Local Agency Updates

There were no agency updates.

Ms. Marta Gibbons commented on her interest in the proposed pathway on Pine Island Road from Burnt Store Road to Stringfellow Road. She suggested conducting an informal poll of the community regarding support of the project. Mr. David Murphy said this is an FDOT managed project.

Agenda Item #12 – Announcements

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item #13 - Information and Distribution Items

The information and distribution items included the latest MPOAC Legislative summary.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

*Action Items *May Require Action

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