

**LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT

T. Patrick Connor, District 2
Al Giacalone, Vice Chair, At Large, Affordable Housing
David Grogan, At Large, Walkable Community
Keith Kibbey, At Large
Don Mayne, Chairman, District 4
Damon Shelor, District 5
Ileana Sisson, District 1
David Wheaton, At Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jane Bowser, At Large, Secretary

STAFF

Andy Getch, LC DOT
David Wagley, LC DOT

GUESTS

Bruce Butcher, FMP PSC
Nicholas Danu, City of Ft. Myers
Cindy Faust, New Approach Condo
Ron Gogoi, LC MPO
Sally Gore, New Approach Condo
John Martin, LCREC/Parvey & Frankel
Michael Mora, New Approach Condo
Chuck Noble, New Approach Condo
Lucille Plachetka, New Approach Condo
Douglas Saxton, BWL Estero
Alan Tomlin, New Approach Condo

Agenda Item #1, *Call to Order, Introductions and Review of Agenda: Don Mayne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., asked for introductions and welcomed guests.

Keith Kibbey made a motion to add agenda item 5e: Lee County DOT Staff Changes - Andy Getch: Ileana Sisson seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Al Giacalone made a motion to move agenda item 4c: *Winkler Road Sidewalk Request up to item 4a: Don Mayne seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #2: *Approval of the March 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Al Giacalone moved to approve the March 18, 2015 meeting minutes as written, Keith Kibbey seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #3, Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Old Business

Agenda Item #4a, *Winkler Road Sidewalk Request: Chuck Noble spoke on behalf of Barbara Buesking from the New Approach Condominiums regarding the need of a sidewalk on the east side of Winkler Road from the condo entrance extending to approximately 600 feet. Many residents who live in the New Approach Condo community would like to walk to the Lutheran Church and to the shopping area of Winn Dixie, however, its difficult crossing Winkler in this area without a sidewalk or crosswalk.

This project is already on the BPAC “projects on hold” list as this segment was reviewed by the Complete Streets Team during resurface review. This project is not in the five year CIP budget as this project will require drainage and widening road work making it a two lane divided highway similar to the McGregor Boulevard plan. This project scored 34 total points in the BPAC scoring system. **No motion was made on this agenda item.**

Agenda Item #4b, Tiger V Grant Update: Ron Gogoi corrected himself that the line of credit from Sun Trust related to the TIGER grant is \$1 million dollars. This amount will pay for upfront consultant and contractor fees that will be reimbursed to the MPO by the feds. Construction for the proposed sidewalks in the San Carlos community will begin in June, 2015 and there is a pre-construction workshop tentatively scheduled for May 26, 2015.

Agenda Item #4c, Fatality Report: The latest pedestrian and bicycle injuries/fatalities have been increasing over the years. The 2014 preliminary numbers queried from Signal 4 Analytics by MPO staff show 192 fatalities, however, the 2014 annual crash report has not been published yet by DHMV.

Agenda Item #4d, Point Scoring System: The current point scoring criteria was adopted by this committee April 2014. Staff asked the committee to consider the effect of legislation to modify the definition of ‘hazardous walking conditions for school children’. On the current list, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the projects are in the Central District (Lehigh Acres, S. Fort Myers, Tice, Buckingham, etc.). Staff will bring the list of county-maintained MPO Bike/Ped Plan projects for the committee to consider adding. Staff will research a suggestion to add a category for people with disabilities.

New Business

Agenda Item #5a, *Gulf Boulevard, Boca Grande Paved Shoulders: As part of the road resurface projects, staff asked the committee for their input on widening paved shoulders on Gulf Boulevard in Boca Grande. The residents of Boca Grande, an organized community, would like to see the shared use path along Gulf Boulevard widened.

After discussion, David Wheaton shared his concern that while the county is out there resurfacing roads, now is the time to widen paved shoulders which would be beneficial for the area, cyclists and pedestrians. Ileana Sisson suggested that members from the community be invited to a BPAC meeting to further discuss this, David Grogan mentioned that he has been out to Boca Grande and since they have a large shared path separate from the road, he doesn't think there is a need to widen the paved shoulders, other committee members were in agreement with the resident's request to widen the shared use path.

David Grogan motioned 'Not to widen paved shoulders on Gulf Boulevard' in Boca Grande, Pat Connor seconded the motion, the motion carried with seven ayes, one abstained.

Agenda Item #5b, Improving Pedestrian Safety Matanzas Pass Bridge Fort Myers Beach: David Grogan shared his concerns and asked for Board member suggestions on improving safety on the pedestrian walkway on Matanzas Pass Bridge. During last month's meeting, this committee suggested that Mr. Grogan contact FDOT as this bridge is maintained by the state of Florida. The Matanzas Pass Bridge is currently part of the PD&E and Trolley Study for this corridor to Fort Myers Beach and the state is also looking at the pedestrian factor of the bridge. Mr. Bruce Butcher from the Fort Myers Beach Public Safety Committee also explained that the state is aware of this safety concern and the public will need to wait until the study has been completed before a final decision is made.

David Grogan made a motion for the following temporary suggestions:

- Add signage/stencils markings on the pedestrian walkway stating no cycling
- Add a gate at either end of the pedestrian walkway on bridge

Ileana Sisson seconded the motion. Don Mayne asked for a final vote on whether BPAC should send a letter to DOT regarding this study: (4) four ayes, (4) four nays. Motion failed 4 to 4.

Agenda Item #5c, National Bike Month: Commissioner Mann will present the BPAC resolution celebrating May as 'National Bike Month' on May 5th, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. Don Mayne, Chairman, will accept the resolution and speak on behalf this committee. The public is welcome to attend.

Agenda Item #5d, Trail Segment Status: Mr. Gogoi stated that the Office of Greenways and Trails staff were in the middle of updating the Florida Greenways and Trails Master Plan and had asked MPO staff to assist them in providing the status of trail segments identified in the Land Opportunities Map. With some of these trails along roadways owned by the County, he wanted committee input on how gaps currently identified in these trails should be addressed. Input from the committee included the following assessments:

1. There was concurrence that the gaps south on the both sides of the Stringfellow Trail south of York Road to the southern end of St. James City should be addressed with pathways on both sides
2. There was concurrence that the gap on the west side of Stringfellow Trail from Barrancas to Main Street should be addressed with a pathway
3. There was concurrence that the gap on the Sanibel-Captiva Trail along San Cap Road in Captiva cannot be addressed due to right of way constraints. As such this part of the trail should be considered EXISTING along with the rest.
4. There was concurrence that the Sanibel-Captiva Trail in the spoil islands in between the Sanibel Causeway, and the Sanibel Causeway should be called out as EXISTING.
5. The Sanibel-Captiva Trail currently has a gap on the north side of Summerlin Road west of Winkler Road to Kelly Cove. There was concurrence that this segment should include a pathway and that there will be a need for a PD&E Study.
6. There was concurrence that the Sanibel-Captiva Trail should be pursued along the FGT easement on the south side of Summerlin from San Carlos Boulevard to Winkler Road.
7. The Sanibel-Captiva Trail has a gap on the south side of Daniels Parkway from east of Red Sox Stadium to SR 82, and a gap on the north side from Commercial Lakes Drive. There was concurrence that both gaps should be addressed with pathways.

8. The Colonial Waterway – Able Canal Trail has a 5’ wide sidewalk on the west side of Sunshine Boulevard. There was concurrence that there is sufficient public right-of-way to reconstruct the sidewalk with a pathway.
9. The Charlotte Lee Hendry Trail Cape Alternative has a gap on Littleton Road from NE 24th Avenue to Business 41. There was concurrence that the gap should be addressed by a pathway.
10. There was concurrence that the gaps on the Veterans Trail (south side of Veteran Parkway from Skyline to Country Club Boulevard and on the north side from SW 3rd Place to SW 2nd Court) have available right-of-ways to be addressed with pathways. There are obstructions on the south side east of Country Club to Midpoint Memorial Bridge to fill the gaps, as there was concurrence with staff that the trail here should be called out as EXISTING.
11. There was concurrence that the Veterans Trail along the Midpoint Memorial Bridge should be called out as EXISTING.
12. There was concurrence that there was right-of-way constraints on the west side of Hickory Boulevard from Barefoot Beach Boulevard to Estero Boulevard that would preclude the installation of a pathway or sidewalk. There was concurrence that pathways should be accommodated on Estero Boulevard from Hickory Boulevard to Lovers Key.

Agenda Item #5e, Department of Transportation Staff Changes: Mary Gibbs, Director of Community Development is retiring May 8th. Lee County Administration announced that Dave Loveland, current Director of Transportation, will be the Acting Director for Community Development effective immediately. Randy Cerchie will be the Acting Director of Transportation. Minor reorganization may take place where Transportation Planning and BPAC may be moving over to the Community Development Division.

Agenda Item #6, Public Comments: Doug Saxton introduced himself and is a member of the ECCL (Estero Council Community Leaders) currently representing the resident’s of Coconut Point and will be moving to the Estero Parkway area soon. Doug joined Bike Walk Lee a few weeks ago and will soon become the future Estero representative for Bike Walk Lee. Mr. Saxton appreciates this committee’s efforts and supports the letter written by this committee to the Board requesting additional funds for projects.

Jonathan Martin works for an attorney in SW Florida and likes to cycle in Fort Myers. During his work career, Jonathan saw many bike fatalities and encourages bike safety and is interested in this committee, sharing ideas and depending on his workload would like to get more involved if possible.

Ron Gogoi has maps available for distribution.

Agenda Item #7, Member Comments:

1. Dave Wheaton inquired about the maintenance budget for sidewalks/multi use paths (specifically, south side of Summerlin) is in need of maintenance. Staff explained anything added to the CIP has maintenance budget for path/sidewalk with window of five year plan. For further maintenance concerns, contact the ‘Request for Action’ line at 239-533-9400 or email your concern at rfa@leegov.com
2. MPO is working on updating the bike/ped maps and should you have any updates or concerns, contact Ron Gogoi.
3. Ileana Sisson would like to see a guest speaker discuss bridge safety and future bridge construction in Lee County.

4. Al Giacalone asked the members to consider courtesy of the Chairman and each other when topics are being discussed at these meetings as there are times when multiple conversations are going on during the meetings. Please refer to Robert's Rules of Order.

Agenda Item #8, Upcoming meeting agenda items:

- Guest Speakers: Bike/Ped Bridge Safety and Bridge Construction.

Agenda Item #9, Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

BPAC Chairman

Date

BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

Date