

**LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 15, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Keith Kibbey, At Large, Chairman
Joe Beck, At Large, Vice-Chair
Ileana Sisson, District 1, Secretary
Steve Rodgers, District 2
Peter Ahlgren, At Large
Don Mayne, District 4**

STAFF

**Mike Tisch, LCDOT
Denise Bayliss, LCDOT
Andy Getch, LCDOT**

MEMBERS ABSENT

**Diana Durante, At Large
Damon Shelor, District 5**

OTHERS PRESENT

**Wayne Gaither, Lee Tran
William Collins, guest**

Agenda Item #1, Call to Order/Introductions/Review of Agenda & Motion to Approve Agenda:

Chairman Keith Kibbey called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m., and asked for introductions around the room. It was determined that the committee was one member short of a quorum and therefore could not make any motions.

There was discussion about the minutes from the July 18, 2012 meeting. Don Mayne asked if it was correct that Joe Beck had moved to approve the June 20, 2012 meeting minutes as written and then opposed his own motion. Prior to making the motion, Mr. Beck had brought up the topic of the Plantation Road roundabout presented at the June meeting and his dislike for the two-lane design. Keith felt that when the vote was called on the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Beck said "opposed," that he was actually opposed to the roundabout design and not the accuracy of the minutes. Mr. Beck then arrived at the meeting and confirmed that his intent was to oppose the roundabout design and not the minutes. With the arrival of Mr. Beck, the committee now had a quorum.

Agenda Item #2, Approval of July 18, 2012 Minutes: Don Mayne moved to approve the July 18, 2012 meeting minutes as written, Steve Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4, Chairman's Report: Keith said he would like to change the agenda and give his report before Agenda #3, Public Comments, while waiting for guest, William Collins, to arrive. **Joe Beck moved to approve the agenda as amended by Keith Kibbey, Don Mayne seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.** Keith reported that Lee County government has invited all Lee County Employees to attend a bicycle safety class on August 28, in the training room of the County/City Annex Building, 1825 Hendry St., Fort Myers. The class will be presented by Dan Moser on behalf of Lee County EMS. Keith will contact the Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau to ask them to come to a BPAC meeting soon to talk about marketing cycling in Lee County on the new VCB website.

Agenda Item #3, Public Comments: Mr. William Collins was here to ask for BPAC's support of his request for sidewalks on the streets near his home in North Fort Myers: Brooks Road, Lavin Lane, and Willis Road. Mr. Collins has ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and uses an electric wheelchair. He cannot speak and wrote out his comments and questions on paper, which BPAC members Ileana Sisson and Keith Kibbey then read to the rest of the committee.

Mr. Collins said he lives in the Habitat for Humanity Senior Living Apartments. His apartment is near Lavin Lane and he has lived there for five years. He frequents the Habitat for Humanity office on Willis Road and the Athenian Greek-American Restaurant a couple of blocks south. There are no sidewalks or shoulders along the streets so he, and other seniors from the Senior Living Apartments, drive their wheelchairs on the street. This is very dangerous. There are no posted speed limit signs and cars are speeding on the streets. There is an auto repair shop on Cardinal St. that test drives the cars by speeding up and down Lavin Lane.

New Business

Agenda Item #5a, Request for sidewalks on Lavin Lane, Brooks Road, and Willis Road, North Fort Myers: Keith Kibbey explained that the BPAC committee was created in 1989. They receive funding annually (from gas taxes and impact fees) that they can allocate to bicycle/pedestrian facilities. BPAC kept a long list of projects to work on: projects that had been requested by the public, the County Commissioners, and members of BPAC. The list kept getting longer. Some projects did get completed, but other projects had been on the list for 20 years or more and didn't look like they would ever get done due to insufficient funds. For the past several years, BPAC's funds have decreased. The committee decided to get rid of the old list and adopt a few major projects to fund. So, most of the BPAC funds for the next five years have already been allocated to projects.

Mike Tisch said that all roads on the annual resurfacing contract are reviewed for the need for bicycle/pedestrian/transit facilities. When the time comes to resurface Brooks Road, Willis Road, and Lavin Lane, those roads will be reviewed by DOT staff, the Complete Streets Team, and BPAC, with regard to adding sidewalks and other bike/ped facilities. Mike said his recommendation would be that sidewalks be built on the frontage of those roads to provide access to the sidewalk on US 41. Mike drove on those streets recently and they are in good condition, so they may not need resurfacing for several more years. Keith added that we get more bicycle/pedestrian facilities out of our dollars if we have that work done at the same time the roads are being resurfaced; especially, if it's a paved shoulder. And it makes for a better finished product.

Mr. Collins asked why the dips were filled in on Lavin Lane; the dips in the roadway made the traffic slow down. Mike explained that utilities installed underneath the roadbed had caused the road to sink in several places, so the dips were filled in to level the road. Keith suggested Mr. Collins call the Lee County Sheriff's Department to ask for additional patrols of those roads to help in controlling speeding.

Ileana asked if the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) would require that sidewalks be put in on the roads and will ADA also provide funding. Mike said that Habitat for Humanity was required to put handicapped-accessible sidewalks around their senior living apartment building. Andy said the ADA requires that all public buildings be handicapped-accessible and that existing sidewalks and new sidewalks be made ADA compliant. But ADA does not require sidewalks be built on roads where none now exist, nor does ADA provide funding. Mike said he would talk to Lee County Human Services to ask if they would help with funding these sidewalks.

There was discussion about the lack of speed limit signs posted on these roads, and what is the speed limit. Mike and Andy said the speed limit in the Brooks/Lavin/Willis area is 25 mph. Mike said he would talk to DOT Traffic about putting up signs.

Joe Beck made a motion to request that staff to take no action on this item. This item is not a priority for the BPAC. The motion died for lack of a second.

Keith suggested that a sidewalk be put in on Brooks Road and connect it to the sidewalk on US 41. That would allow Mr. Collins to get where he wants to go. Another suggestion was made to make Willis Road one-way to the east and Lavin Lane one-way to the north to Brooks Road. Then one lane could be used for motor vehicle traffic and the other lane could be used for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs. Andy said that proposal would need to be reviewed by DOT Traffic staff for traffic safety and circulation. It would also require approval from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Lee County Sheriff's Department, because it reduces their response time to get into and out of that area.

Several committee members suggested that Mr. Collins' request be reviewed by DOT staff and the Complete Streets Team; and that possible solutions and cost estimates be prepared for review by BPAC. Joe Beck made that motion and Don Mayne seconded. The motion carried 5 to 1 with Joe Beck opposing his own motion.

Joe Beck invited Mr. Collins to attend the North Fort Myers Community Planning Panel to present his request to them. The panel meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

Agenda Item #5b, Discussion of USDOT Federal Highway Administration Document "Bicycle Safety Audit Guidelines and Prompt List, May 2012": Andy Getch said Steve Jansen and Bryan Miller, in the DOT Traffic Division, would like input from BPAC to identify several county maintained roads to be safety audited. A Road Safety Audit Team will be assembled to audit one or two of these roads. The team will consist of interested parties, citizens, etc.; all objective reviewers not associated with the owner. No Lee County DOT employees will be on the team.

Keith asked for suggestions of roads and road projects for a safety road audit, one of which should be a project still in the design phase. Committee members' suggestions included: Plantation Road roundabout, Estero Blvd., Winkler Road, Alico Road, Six Mile Cypress, and Burnt Store Rd. The consensus of the committee was to pick Estero Blvd. on Ft. Myers Beach (the one mile section under design) and Winkler Road (from McGregor Blvd. to Gladiolus Dr.) to test the road safety audit process.

Keith requested an agenda item for the next BPAC meeting: review of a pin-plot crash map of bicycle accidents and fatalities in Lee County for the past five years.

Agenda Item #5c, Hold BPAC meetings every other month:

After some discussion, Joe Beck made a motion that BPAC schedule future meetings to be held during the odd months: January, March, May, July, September, and November; additional meetings or workshops can be scheduled as needed. The motion was seconded by Don Mayne. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5d, Lee Plan Amendments: Transportation and Land Use: Andy Getch said the Lee Plan New Horizon 2035 Evaluation and Appraisal Report, adopted March 1, 2011, represents a significant change in the philosophy of how Lee County designs and constructs roads using a multi-modal approach: transit, bicycle/pedestrian facilities; to support creating walkability. Staff is in the process of preparing draft updates of the individual elements for the Lee Plan; and those are going through a review process by the Local Planning Agency and the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee. The draft re-write of the transportation element (airports, rail, bike/ped facilities, streets & roads, boats, ports) of the Lee Plan might be available a few days prior to the September 19, 2012 BPAC meeting and Andy will bring it to the committee for members' comments. These changes to the Lee Plan are extremely important.

Andy informed the committee of the new Lee County Town Hall feature on the Lee County website at www.leecountytownhall.com. Information on New Horizon 2035 is available there and citizens are encouraged to leave comments.

Keith suggested voting at the September 19 BPAC meeting on holding a BPAC workshop on the changes to the Lee Plan, in October and presenting the findings to the entire BPAC committee at the November 21, 2012 meeting.

Old Business

Agenda Item #6a, BPAC Letterhead Stationery: The members reviewed the previously submitted BPAC letterhead designs and a last minute entry by staff dubbed the “blue dots.”

Joe Beck moved to approve the “Blue Dots” design for the new BPAC letterhead stationery. Don Mayne seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7, Public Comments:

Mr. Collins asked what has been done at the intersections where bicyclists were killed. Andy explained that DOT staff gets a copy of all crash reports, whether they involved motor vehicles, cyclists, or pedestrians, with fatalities or injuries, from the law enforcement agency that responded to the crash. Staff then evaluates those reports to see what countermeasures can be done. A lot of times, the crash was caused by human error; but there are instances where a safety countermeasure, such as better lighting, installing a traffic signal, or adding sidewalks, can be done to make a change. Ileana Sisson added that we are also trying to prevent accidents by adding bike/ped facilities on current roads and new roads. Also, we are trying to educate drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists about safety.

Mr. Collins asked on which side of the road he should drive his wheelchair. Andy said a person in a wheelchair is considered a pedestrian, so he should ride facing motor vehicle traffic on the roadway. However, when using a wheelchair on a sidewalk, he can go either way (facing traffic or in the same direction as traffic).

Agenda Item #8, Member Comments:

Ileana Sisson asked about getting a guest speaker from Parks & Recreation to talk about adding bike/ped facilities to community parks, as was discussed at a previous BPAC meeting. Andy noted that on the Lee County Town Hall mind mixer website www.leecountytownhall.com the Parks & Recreation element is posted there right now for people to comment on. Mike Tisch said he had a speaker, Cathy Olson from Parks & Rec’s Conservation 2020 Parks Project, scheduled to speak at the October BPAC meeting. He will contact Ms. Olson to ask if she is available to come to the November BPAC meeting. (BPAC members voted to meet only on the odd months, so there will not be a meeting in October).

Steve Rodgers asked for an update on the Lee Tour de Parks demo loop signing. Mike Tisch said DOT Signs & Markings has ten more signs to install and those should be done by next week. Treeline Ave. and Daniels Pkwy are done. Signing and marking on Six Mile Cypress Parkway

has been delayed due to the on-going construction. Staff is holding off on signing and marking the University Loop until they receive final approval for Alico Road from FDOT.

Keith asked about the email request he received from Dan Moser for paved shoulders on the Cape Coral Bridge. Mike said staff is evaluating the bridge. Steve Jansen has concerns about the safety of what Mr. Moser proposed, given the rate of traffic speed and lack of an adequate safety rail. Because of the low height of the existing rail in the westbound direction, Steve believes that it would not be safe. The eastbound direction has a higher security barrier and a higher rail, but the westbound rail is significantly lower and is 30+ years old. Mike is working on an estimate to see how much it would cost to add a higher rail. He is waiting for information from the bridge engineer.

Ileana said the paved shoulders have disappeared in some sections of Stringfellow Road on Pine Island.

Agenda Item #9, Adjournment: Joe Beck moved to adjourn; Don Mayne seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

BPAC Vice-Chairman

Date

BPAC Secretary

Date