

LEE COUNTY  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES  
April 21, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Al Giacalone, Chair, Affordable Housing, At Large  
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large  
Don Mayne, Vice-Chair, District 4  
Eric Spivey, Bike Industry Representative, At Large

Dave Wheaton, At Large  
Jeremie Chastain, District 1  
T. Patrick Connor, District 2

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Susan Oehl, Walkable Community, At Large  
Nora Demers, At Large

Damon Shelor, District 5

**STAFF**

David Wagley, LC DCD  
Debbie Carpenter, LC DCD

Tom Marquardt, Lee DOT  
Allan Makau, LCU

**GUESTS**

Bruce Graham  
Cheryl Graham  
Jodi Walborn, Blue Zones Project SWFL  
Linda Sapal  
Marcia Fenton

Nancy Malson  
Donald Malson  
Scott Sullivan  
Marilyn Burch

**Agenda Item #1, \*Call to Order, Introductions and Review of Agenda:** Mr. Al Giacalone called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in Admin East, 2201 Second Street, Room 118 and asked for introductions. A review of the agenda followed. **A motion to approve was made by Ms. Jane Bowser and seconded by Mr. Don Mayne. The agenda was approved as written.**

**Agenda Item #2: \*Approval of the March 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Eric Spivey made a motion to approve the March minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Mayne. Mr. Giacalone called the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #3, Public Comments:**

Ms. Nancy Malson spoke on behalf of widening the sidewalk on Winkler Road that she had presented to the committee in March.

Ms. Marilyn Birch, resident of Crown Colony and avid biker, spoke in support of the Winkler Road sidewalk widening.

Ms. Linda Sapal, also a biker and resident of Crown Colony, spoke in support of the Winkler Road project saying it is hard for a biker and walker to pass each other because the sidewalk is so narrow.

Ms. Marcia Fenton, a biker, a walker and a resident of Coastal Key, supported the Winkler Road widening saying the sidewalk is too narrow to accommodate both bikes and pedestrians.

**Agenda Item #4: Bike-Ped Facility Requests/Presentations**

York Road from Cherry Estates Pkwy to Galt Island Ave.

Mr. Bruce Graham spoke on behalf of a sidewalk along York Road from Cherry Estates Parkway to Galt Island

Avenue and reviewed a slide presentation. He identified the proximity and location of the request, spoke about the support garnered from the community and suggested that this request be bundled with what is already on the list (York Road from Stringfellow to Galt Island Ave.) as a continuation south along York from Galt Island to Cherry Estates Parkway. He said that children walk to school bus stops in the dark and have to stand on or just off the road. He is in the process of collecting signatures on petitions and so far there is 100% support. He has spoken to the Pine Island Civic Association, the Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce, the Sheriff's office and others, all of whom have voiced support. Mr. Giacalone thanked him for the presentation.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Other Business:**

##### \*Bike Lanes/Sidewalk Widening, Winkler Road

**Mr. Wheaton made a motion to add the Winkler Road sidewalk request to the BPAC list. Ms. Bowser seconded the motion for discussion.**

Mr. Spivey said some of Winkler Road was being resurfaced, but staff confirmed that this section of Winkler was not on the resurfacing list. As a biker he has ridden this road, doesn't do so alone but does not ride the sidewalk. He had mixed emotions about this request because there is a sidewalk albeit narrow. Mr. Pat Connor asked about widening the sidewalk versus repairing. Mr. Wagley explained that repairing the sidewalk would be a maintenance issue. The widening of the sidewalk or adding bike lanes would be a retrofit project. Mr. Wagley asked whether the motion was to widen the sidewalk or to add bike paths or both. Mr. Giacalone said that past experience has shown that in the final analysis the engineers make that decision when they review the project. Mr. Wagley had point scored each separately and both were about 65 points which ranked it in the upper third of the list.

**Mr. Giacalone called the motion to add the sidewalk widening of Winkler Road to the BPAC list. The motion passed by majority with 2 voting against.**

##### \*York Road from Cherry Estates Pkway to Galt Island Ave

Mr. Giacalone returned to Item #4 on the agenda (Galt Island/Cherry Estates sidewalk request) stating that because there was the possibility there would be no May meeting, the committee might want to consider whether to add the York Road from Galt Island Avenue to Cherry Estates project to the list at this meeting rather than waiting until the June meeting. The suggestion was made to discuss adding this as an extension of one block onto the project already on the list at #138 (York Road from Stringfellow to Galt Island Avenue).

**Mr. Mayne made a motion to add the York Road from Galt Island Ave. to Cherry Estates Parkway request to the BPAC list as an extension of the York Road request (#138) already on the list. Mr. Wheaton seconded.** Mr. Mayne commented that the presenter made an excellent point about 40% of the population being within that area and passing through that intersection and that this extension would be worthwhile. Ms. Bowser asked if combining the two projects into one would give it a higher score. Mr. Wagley confirmed that the point score would increase slightly. Mr. Connor had a concern about the school kids and wondered whether anyone had considered looking into the Safe Routes to School program. He was surprised at how far down on the list it was. He asked how community support entered into the process and Mr. Giacalone explained that there are a certain number of points that can be added for community support when residents actually attend meetings, but also said that anyone has the ability to lobby other government entities including commissioners.

**Mr. Giacalone called the motion to add this project as a one block extension as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.**

##### \*U.S. Bike Route through Lee County

Mr. Wagley reminded the committee that a presentation was made at the last meeting for a US Bike Route from Georgia, south along the Gulf Coast then across to Miami-Dade county. The Committee requested the topic be brought back for discussion. He pointed out the current route which included areas maintained by other municipalities as green or red lines, and the Lee County maintained route, as recommended by staff in

conjunction with the MPO, shown as a blue line. The idea is to get people from all over the country to visit the area, with the expectation that the route would be utilized by highly confident bicyclists using GPS to navigate. Mr. Wagley explained that LDOT would be recommending approval with the support of BPAC.

**Mr. Mayne made a motion to prepare a letter to LDOT supporting this alignment, and volunteered to write the letter on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Spivey seconded.**

Mr. Wheaton commented that it was a good route, one he has used. He thought it would be an economic engine and good for public relations and tourism.

**Mr. Giacalone called the motion for Mr. Mayne to draft a letter of support for this US Bike Route 15 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

\*Road Resurfacing List Recommendations

Mr. Wagley confirmed that these recommendations were new and different than what was presented last month. After reviewing the Resurfacing Project Location Map 3 / FY 2019, staff had the following three recommendations: #3, Iona Road (Thornton Rd to McGregor Blvd) a major collector with significant pedestrian and bicycle traffic. There is an existing sidewalk on the north side. The recommendation was to construct sidewalk on the south side. #5 and #6, Luckett Road- Corporation Circle-Enterprise Parkway, an industrial subdivision off of Luckett Road. Lee County has an office nearby, there is a restaurant and bus stop, workers walk and bike to work.

**Ms. Bowser made a motion to add these 3 projects to the BPAC list. Mr. Mayne seconded.**

Discussion followed. Mr. Wagley clarified that the recommendations would not necessarily be carried out during resurfacing, but reviewing these maps is a good way for staff to evaluate every road in the county as they come up for resurfacing. Mr. Tom Marquardt said that DOT does look at ADA facilities (there is an ADA fund that is separate from resurfacing) and may upgrade some of the curb ramps while resurfacing, but sidewalks would be a separate funding mechanism. Sometimes if the lanes are wide enough, the road may be restriped to add width to the shoulder, but generally adding a bike lane would not be done as part of a resurfacing project.

**Mr. Giacalone called the motion to add the (3) recommended projects to the BPAC list. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #6, Member Comments:**

Mr. Wheaton said that House Bill 605 is a bicycle/pedestrian bill. It's currently in the House and appears mainly to clean up the language, but it does address safety concerns. He didn't know if there was a companion Senate bill, but wanted to bring it to the committee's attention if anyone was interested.

Mr. Giacalone thanked the committee members for their continued service to the community and also extended a gracious thank you to those that were able to attend the Commissioner meeting for the reading of the Bike Month Resolution. Mr. Connor commented that Mr. Mayne made a quick, but excellent presentation to the Board about the number of miles of sidewalk that had been completed over the last year.

**Agenda Item #7, Staff Comments:**

Mr. Wagley reminded the committee that he had emailed a list of completed sidewalk projects and had some photos of a couple of those. The first was West Marianna Avenue in North Fort Myers from Piney Road heading east to Business 41. The other was the north end of Winkler Road. Sidewalk was added on the east side from College Parkway to McGregor in connection with an LCU water project.

Mr. Marquardt reported on two projects. Design work had started on a section near the school on Tice Street. He said a solicitation for a large sidewalk project several miles in length on Bell Blvd. in Lehigh was in the

process of being sent out.

**Agenda Item #8, Other Government Entities Comments: None**

**Agenda Item #9, Upcoming Agenda Items:**

Mr. Giacalone announced that neither of the larger meeting rooms were available for the May meeting. After a brief discussion, the Committee voted to cancel the 5/19/21 meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2021.

**Agenda Item #10, Adjournment:**

Mr. Giacalone adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

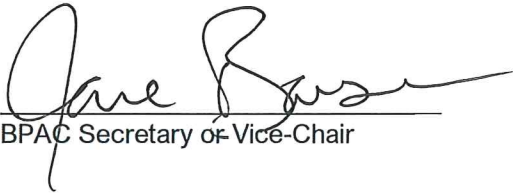
**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at the Admin. East Building, 2201 Second St., Fort Myers, FL 33901, Conference Room 118.



BPAC Chairman

16 June 2021

Date



BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

6-16-21

Date