

LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Giacalone, Chair, Affordable Housing, At Large
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large
Don Mayne, Vice-Chair, District 4

Dave Wheaton, At Large
Damon Shelor, District 5
T. Patrick Connor, District 2

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Oehl, Walkable Community, At Large
Eric Spivey, Bike Industry Representative, At Large

Jeremie Chastain, District 1
Nora Demers, At Large

STAFF

David Wagley, LC DCD
Debbie Carpenter, LC DCD

Tom Marquardt, Lee DOT

GUESTS

Jodi Walborn, Blue Zone Project SWFL
Dave Conklin

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 the agenda was made by Mr. Don Mayne and seconded by Mr. Damon Shelor. The motion was called and the agenda was approved as written.**

Agenda Item #2: *Approval of the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Pat Connor made a motion to approve the April minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Mayne. Mr. Giacalone called the motion which passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3, Public Comments:

Mr. Dave Conklin spoke on behalf of the shared use path on Donald Road currently on the BPAC list as #90. He said that Donald Road is an access road to everything south of Bayshore and west of Daughtry Creek and is heavily traveled. He spoke of a new development in the area, the increase in traffic as a result and was especially concerned about the safety of the pedestrian and bike riding population along that roadway particularly after sunset.

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

Road Resurfacing Recommendation – Kenwood Lane.

Mr. Wagley said that this 1600 LF section of sidewalk on Kenwood Lane at College Parkway and US41 in South Fort Myers is Project #74 on sheet 8 of 11 of the Road Resurfacing maps, is in the Intensive Land Use category, has a number of businesses and residential along Kenwood Lane and is served by 2 bus stops. It scored 68 points. It is not currently on the list and there have been no public requests for it.

Ms. Bowser made a motion to add the project saying the project would have merit and would complete the circuit from US 41. Mr. Wheaton seconded.

Mr. Shelor agreed it was a worthy project but was concerned that with a point score of 68 it would go on the BPAC list ahead of projects that have been on the list for several years. Mr. Mayne noted that pedestrians have

alternatives, such as walking through parking lots.

Mr. Giacalone called the motion to add the Kenwood Lane project to the BPAC list. The motion did not carry.

Agenda Item #5: Other Business:

(a) BPAC Resolution

Mr. Giacalone summarized the history of BPAC's resolution. The original resolution formed the committee, stated the responsibilities and established the quorum. In 2015 the Committee drafted some changes to the resolution with respect to its duties and responsibilities and to the quorum. After that time County Administration was contemplating revamping Committees in general, therefore the changes were not made. The Committee asked that the resolution be brought back for discussion.

Mr. Shelor made a motion to approve the resolution with the proposed changes. Mr. Mayne seconded for discussion.

Mr. Shelor said obtaining a quorum has been a continuing issue. A proposed change would essentially ignore empty seats and base the quorum on the size of the seated committee (Line #68). Mr. Connor referred to (Line #115) and an Annual Report asking if it was something that was being done now. The response was that although there is no specific annual report, the BPAC Chairman generally provides a brief summary to the Commissioners when they recognize Bike Month during an April or May board meeting.

Discussion followed concerning dates for Lines #97, 101 and 117. Mr. Shelor recalled there had been extensive discussion about this and those months were chosen to coincide with DOT's timelines in connection with prioritization, the budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), allowing the Committee to have comments to DOT in a timely fashion. More discussion followed with respect to references to Complete Streets. The question was whether this term was still relevant now that there is no longer a Sustainability Committee, and if the term should be changed to current terminology or uncapitalized. Mr. Wagley said that the idea of complete streets is to provide facilities for all modes of transportation (multi-modal). Mr. Shelor thought that complete streets was still a valid concept and taken into consideration by DOT in their planning when building or rebuilding streets and roadways, and Mr. Ron Gogoi confirmed that the Complete Street concept is utilized at the state level and the Florida design manual references Complete Streets as well. The committee agreed that Complete Streets should remain capitalized.

Mr. Wagley said the committee typically reviews the prioritization list at the end of the calendar year and May might be a little early in that process since DOT generally wants to have comments by November to identify projects and work on funding for the CIP in December and January. Mr. Wagley said changing May to November would also allow time for the public to provide their comments and staff to prepare for the next budget cycle.

Mr. Giacalone commented that the duties and responsibilities in Item #1 (line 94) and #2 (line 100) looked to be redundant, however, it was pointed out that #1 was related to recommendations for Map 3D of the LeePlan, whereas #2 was more in connection to CIP prioritization.

Following discussion, Mr. Giacalone made the recommendation to leave Line #97 as is; change Line #101 from May to November. With respect to Line #117 and filing a summary report, it was suggested that it might be beneficial to develop a format that could be used to update the County Manager and/or Commissioners each year, and this same report could be used to update the Commissioners during recognition of Bike Month.

Mr. Wagley said Line #56 should be updated from Dept. of Transportation to Community Development, and

the signature page should be updated accordingly.

M. Giacalone called the motion to submit the BPAC resolution to the Commissioners with the proposed changes as discussed. The motion carried and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wagley said the resolution and proposed changes would be reviewed by the Community Development Director and Assistant County Manager, Glen Salyer before going to the Commissioners.

(b) Point Scoring System

Mr. Wagley said it has been 3 years since the committee reviewed the point scoring system. Staff comments were minimal. He thought that the 2 points attributed to Easement Contribution could be redistributed since in his eight years with the committee he had never seen those used. There was a brief discussion about the biggest generators being Schools, Transit, Future Land Use Map Designation and Crash Data. One suggestion was to redistribute the Easement Contribution points to Schools, Network Completion or Transit.

Mr. Mayne made a motion to move one point to Network Completion and one point to Citizen Support. Mr. Connor seconded. M. Giacalone called the motion and it carried unanimously.

(c) U.S. Bicycle Route 15 Update

At the last meeting the Committee agreed to prepare a letter of support to the Commissioners for the US Bike Route 15 through Lee County. Mr. Mayne drafted that letter and a copy had been provided for review. Lee County, the City of Fort Myers and MPO were all in agreement on the alignment, but Adventure Cycling was still trying to get approval from Bonita Springs on their small section. County staff has worked on a draft resolution which will be submitted to the Commissioners for approval, along with the BPAC's letter supporting the alignment, once all of the other jurisdictions, including Bonita Springs, are on board. Following that FDOT will prepare an application, put everything together from all the jurisdictions and stakeholders and submit to AASHTO.

There was a brief conversation about the Edison Bridge, following a question by Mr. Connor whether there was a bike path on the bridge now. Staff said there is a sidewalk and paved shoulder but no marked bike lanes. Mr. Ron Gogoi said that DOT has a project scheduled to resurface Business 41 to SR78 and as part of that project they will be reducing lane widths to accommodate bike lanes, incorporating a center lane as a separator, reducing the speed limit and adding landscaping. Complete streets is driving the improvements for that particular project.

(d) MPO Update

Mr. Gogoi reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that looked at a US 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge Retrofit project and MPO 2021 Funding priorities.

He outlined the different structural options for the Caloosahatchee bridge pedestrian retrofit project to include bicycle/pedestrian facilities, associated costs (Option A \$13.8M, Option B \$9M; and Option C \$15M) and the switchback ramp location being coordinated with the City of Fort Myers along the west side near Centennial Park.

He reviewed FDOT Bridge Replacement Priorities which showed the bridge over the Caloosahatchee River in Group 3 (recommended for replacement within 15-20 years). Constructed in 1962, the bridge has passed its original 50 year design life. In 2012 the bridge was inspected and had a rating of 70 which equates to good condition and the suggestion then was do a rehab which has been done, and keep it on the list for replacement in another 15 to 20 years. More recently the bridge rating was still at 70 making it due for replacement in another 20 – 25 years. He expected the pedestrian/retrofit to be done within 5 years and he explained that the sooner a retrofit is done the better so that replacement does not happen too soon after the retrofit, otherwise there is perception of wasting money. Commissioner Hamman is championing

this project.

He reviewed other funding priorities including the Big Carlos Bridge Replacement at the south end of Fort Myers Beach which is a county project. The County is contributing most of the money toward the \$50M construction cost, but MPO will contribute \$15M (\$5M for three years) as the federal match and the State will provide \$10M in state match. Other projects on the list include US41 at Six Mile Cypress Parkway, US41 at Bonita Beach Road and SR739 from Daniels Parkway to Six Mile. He said the expectation was that there may be some additional funding in the next 3 or 4 years as a result of CoVid, along with the new Federal Administration's infrastructure program that may allow for more of the priorities to be addressed. The remaining slides outlined the Five Year Work program, the 2021 Federal and State Funded Priorities and 2021 Highway Safety Program Fund Priorities.

Agenda Item #6, Member Comments:

Mr. Wagley said that Dr. DeMers had contacted him about a professor at FGCU that does a walking audit with her students, thinking it might be something the committee would find interesting. Mr. Wagley said that walking audits identify things that need to be fixed and sometimes also provide suggestions for how to make things safer. The professor does some other things as part of the curriculum that might be interesting, but Mr. Wagley thought the walking audit would be the most appropriate for the committee. He asked the committee if they would be interested in having her make a presentation. Mr. Giacalone suggested that she send outlines of her presentations to see what might provide the most benefit to the committee and then plan to have her make a presentation at the August or September meeting.

Mr. Connor asked about a survey he received and asked if there was any benefit to filling out these surveys and how they are used. There was a brief discussion with Mr. Wagley mentioning that he sometimes gets requests from individuals and agencies to help disseminate surveys.

Mr. Wheaton mentioned that the BPC had distributed information about a webinar about Complete Streets. Mr. Gogoi was familiar with it and thought it was geared more toward elected officials but Mr. Wheaton thought it might be interesting and that anyone could listen in.

Mr. Giacalone announced that the Commissioners do not meet in July and asked the members whether they wished to have a meeting in July. The Committee agreed to cancel the July meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for August 18th and if all are agreed, will be held in the Public Works/Community Development building, 1500 Monroe Street, first floor conference room 1B.

Agenda Item #7, Staff Comments: None

Agenda Item #8, Other Government Entities Comments:

Mr. Giacalone recognized Ms. Jodi Walborn who arrived a little late. She spoke briefly about a program entitled "Blue Zone of Southwest Florida". She described a study done by a National Geographic photographer and journalist identifying five locations with the longest living, healthiest and happiest octogenarians and the nine common denominators. The Blue Zone is sponsored by Naples Community Hospital (NCH) and is currently in Collier, Bonita and Estero and hopes to move further north into Lee County soon. Their program promotes healthy lifestyles and encourages communities to make changes that lead to healthier options.

Agenda Item #9, Upcoming Agenda Items:

Agenda Item #10, Adjournment:

Mr. Giacalone adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

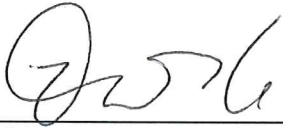
Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. Meeting will be held in the Public Works/Community Development Building, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901 in Conference Room 1B.



BPAC Chairman

18 Aug 2021

Date



BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

8/18/2021

Date