

LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

Don Mayne, Chair, District 4
Al Giacalone, At Large, Affordable Housing
Damon Shelor, District 5

John LaValla, Bike Industry Rep
Keith Kibbey, At Large
T. Patrick Connor, District 2

MEMBERS ABSENT

Angela Spence, District 3
Jane Bowser, At Large, Secretary

Dave Wheaton, At Large, Vice Chair

STAFF

David Wagley, LCDCD
Debbie Carpenter, Recording Secretary, LCDCD

Andy Getch, LCDCD
Dave Murphy, LCDOT

GUESTS

John Kottke, Royal Palm Village
Rod Pickett, Royal Palm Village
Bob & Donna Crowder, Highland Pines
Tom & Jenny Leffingwell, St. Charles Harbour

See Sign In sheet for additional guests

Agenda Item#1, *Call to Order, Introductions and Review of Agenda: Mr. Don Mayne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., asked for introductions and welcomed guests. **Mr. Al Giacalone moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Keith Kibbey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Agenda Item #2: *Approval of the February 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Damon Shelor moved to **approve the February 15, 2017 minutes.** Mr. Kibbey suggested a revision to the W/E 17th Street Lehigh request to clarify, such as by adding parenthesis, that after the meeting, staff determined that the speed limit was 40 mph, not 45 as stated during the meeting. **Mr. Shelor amended his motion with this change; Mr. Pat Connor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Agenda Item #3, Public Comments:

Ms. Donna Crowder spoke on behalf of the Plantation Road sidewalk request. She stated that the original request was for their sidewalk to nowhere to connect to the existing sidewalk to the north, however, after the discussion at February's BPAC meeting, the request has been amended to include the whole segment on Plantation from Daniels to Idlewild because of all the dead-end sidewalks similar to theirs. She had also contacted Dawn Huff about the SRTS program and distributed an email response. Several residents spoke in favor of this sidewalk request stating that because of its proximity to supermarkets, drugstores, schools and commercial areas, including a new Whole Foods being built, there are many pedestrians, bicyclists and school children walking and riding along this busy street. Several thought the road was dangerous because of distracted drivers and excessive speed and were afraid for themselves and others, especially the children walking to and from school. Some noted the roundabout at Plantation had helped to slow the traffic in that area making it safer for bike/ped traffic there but not the area closer to Daniels.

Mr. & Mrs. Leffingwell spoke in support of a sidewalk at St. Charles Harbour. There are sidewalks the whole length of Iona and Davis Roads but none in front of St. Charles. The road is narrow and busy and they are especially concerned about the children that walk to get to and from their school buses.

Mr. Rick Herman thanked the committee for adding the Eagle Ridge project at the last meeting. He wanted it noted for the record that since then there had been an annual meeting and there was a huge amount of community support for the sidewalk. He also spoke about the need for the Plantation Road sidewalk because he frequently travels on Plantation and is shocked that children are allowed to walk there because of the hazardous conditions. Mr. Dan Ruzbasan, Eagle Ridge Lakes also thanked the committee for their support of the Eagle Ridge sidewalk project added last month.

Sidewalk Requests/Presentations

Agenda Item #4a: Plantation Rd Sidewalk from Daniels to Idlewild St.

Mr. Mayne noted that this request was presented at the last meeting, but there had been some confusion about the scope of the project. Ms. Crowder has since clarified the request in her public comment. Mr. Wagley confirmed that because this area is a segway between industrial, commercial and residential, the whole section between Idlewild and Daniels Parkway should be evaluated for sidewalks on both sides. This scored very high on the point scoring system at 59.21 points with a total cost of just over \$6 Million; the high cost due in part to significant drainage issues. Staff is looking at alternative funding. Mr. Wagley confirmed the project was in the Central District.

Following discussion **Mr. Giacalone made a motion to add this project, a sidewalk on both sides from Daniels to Idlewild, to the Priority List. Mr. Kibbey seconded. The motion was called and was approved unanimously.**

Agenda Item #4b: W/E 17th St. Sidewalk from Sunshine Blvd. to Richmond Ave. N.

Mr. Wagley announced that Ms. Compton could not be at the meeting but sent an email which he read into the record. In summary she was still requesting the sidewalk. It's a straight road with no speed bumps or stop signs and is heavily traveled. People in the neighborhood were all in agreement about the need. She recently learned about two new projects that will create more traffic. She said there was a ground breaking for a new school off of Joel Blvd., and she's heard about a new water park. Mr. Wagley researched and found there was no ground breaking but the school district is considering a high school either on Griffin or Joel Blvd. so there is that potential impact in the future. The water park is an agricultural water park, used for educational purposes with respect to irrigation.

The section is a little over 2 miles. Mr. Shelor confirmed that 17th Street is certainly a candidate, but that 8th Street is more populated and just as deserving. However, Greenbriar has the potential of becoming a destination spot, there is commercial off of Joel and land has been purchased for a proposed park nearby. Mr. LaValla noted that this was north of the Harns Marsh school and there are many young families there and he has heard that parents are afraid to let their children take the bus. Kids either walk in the street or are pushed onto the shoulders into the grass which could be dangerous as well.

The project is approximately 2 miles (12,000 linear feet) has a score of 14 and a cost of approximately \$1.4 Million. It scored low because there are few traffic generators nearby. There were four bike/ped crashes with motor vehicles over the last 5 years and in 2015, after a student was hit, the Lehigh Street Lighting District added more lights in the neighborhood.

Mr. Kibbey made a motion to add this project to the list. Mr. Shelor seconded.

More discussion followed. Initially Mr. Giacolone was not in favor of adding the project to the list because he thought that the neighborhood should continue to work to garner support for it, but later voted to include it. Mr. Shelor thought that projects such as this, although low on scores, still need to be added to the list because we need to identify the needs, past, present and future, even if it is a long way from getting done. Certainly more needy projects should be done first, especially in Lehigh where the need is great, but when there is no good alternative and the project has merit it should be added.

Mr. Mayne called the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4c: Beth Stacey Blvd Sidewalk from 23rd St SW to approx. 750 Ft North of 23rd St SW

Mr. Shelor made the presentation for this sidewalk in February. Beth Stacey is a connector road and there is a gap in the sidewalk near the senior living facility. Mr. Shelor said the initial request for a sidewalk was made by residents quite some time ago. He thought the committee had voted to add it but it wasn't on the list. Mr. Wagley said he went back through the 2011 minutes and was unable to confirm that.

There is a bus route and a shopping center nearby along with other pedestrian generators. It scored 34.38 on the point scoring system with an estimated cost of \$247,000.

Mr. Shelor made a motion to add this request to fill in the 750 feet of gap north of 23rd street SW along Beth Stacey. Mr. Kibbey seconded. The motion was called and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4d: Sidewalk or Shared Use Path from Old Gladiolus Drive to US41

Mr. John Kottke, resident of Royal Palm Village (RPV), presented the request for a sidewalk or shared use path from the east end of Old Gladiolus to the west end, approximately a .2 mile segment. Old Gladiolus Drive is located across from Lakes Park. Royal Palm's entrance is on Old Gladiolus near the back entrance to Lowe's and the service area for the Infiniti dealership. He said a shared use path would provide safe pedestrian access in either direction to Lakes Park, or to US41 in order to get to bus stops, Walmart, Jamaica Bay, restaurants and shopping. Mr. Rod Pickett, president of the RPV Condo Assn. also spoke on behalf of the request stating that this is a dead end road but with lots of vehicular traffic. RPV has 133 units, 200 people and 300 cars; there is an apartment complex, a condominium complex and medical facilities that share Old Gladiolus as well. He said South Fort Myers and that stretch of Gladiolus is heavily traveled and needs less motor vehicles and more foot traffic. He referred to a map that outlined existing and proposed sidewalks, and referred to a connection from Mida to Old Gladiolus as well. He said either side, north or south, would accommodate a sidewalk, but there is already a bridge constructed on the north side which would be an advantage.

The committee asked for clarification about development in the area; a cancer treatment center is on one corner, a dermatology facility on the other, there are two apartment complexes and a condominium project – all developed parcels. There is a cross walk to and from Lakes Park across Gladiolus. There is a section of sidewalk on Old Gladiolus as a result of a project done several years ago. The road dead ends near US41 but there is a section of sidewalk that goes through to US41 and a bus stop nearby. The bus stop will help add to the point score.

Mr. Mayne thanked them for the presentation. Staff will do some research and the committee will discuss at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #4e: St. Charles Harbour along Iona Road Sidewalk Request

Mr. Cecil McClary spoke on behalf of the St. Charles Harbour sidewalk request. There is a sidewalk on Iona Road that stops at St. Charles Harbour, so his request was to add approximately 700 feet of sidewalk along the front of the development. His main concern was for the kids that ride the bus and are picked up or dropped off substantially down the road that then have to walk on the street or the shoulders of this heavily traveled road. He said many visitors, bikers and other pedestrians use the roadway as well. Additionally, the St. Charles development includes a marina so overnight boaters and guests walk or bike to nearby commercial areas for food and supplies. He referred to pictures of the area showing the intersection of Davis and Iona, existing sidewalks and the area of the proposed sidewalk. He located the entrance to the community and the location of the marina for the committee's benefit, and noted that the community was built about 30 years ago.

Mr. Mayne thanked representatives for their presentation. The project will be discussed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #5a. State Regional Enhancement Funds

(aka Regional Transportation Alternative Projects, the official name of the funding source)

Staff distributed a spreadsheet showing proposed trails in and around Lee County. Mr. Wagley said there has been increased public interest in Lee County concerning trails, with a focus on connectivity. Some of the projects shown on the list have commissioner interest; for three of them, MPO has recommended applying for FDOT RTAP funding; some are on the BPAC list already. County Administration will need to make some decisions concerning trails but staff needed direction from the committee on whether all, some or none of the projects should be added to the BPAC list and how they should be prioritized. Committee members asked for a clarification of what a trail is and why trails should be treated differently; why not just score it, price it out and add it? Staff explained that trails are considered "off road" but could be part of the road right-of-way or off road near a canal. There are two sources of money for these types of projects, the Sun Trail and the RT Alternate Funding (RTAP) programs, and to qualify projects need to be identified as a regional pathway on the Lee and Collier Bi-County Regional Map. Mr. Kibbey said that to add and prioritize them on the BPAC list would require either modifying the current scoring system or developing a different point system just for trails. Mr. Giacalone said the committee's job is to identify bike/ped projects (which these trails are) put them on the list and then staff finds the funding. Following additional discussion, the consensus was to add as many of these to the BPAC list as possible. This list of projects represent projects that could potentially be county maintained.

The committee asked what staff needed as a motion. Mr. Wagley said the consensus seemed to be to add as many of these projects to the BPAC list as possible. No motion was made and no formal action was taken.

Agenda Item #5b: *Bike Week Resolution

Mr. Shelor reviewed the changes he had made to the Bike Week resolution following last month's discussion. He included a reference to the fact that more than 25 million Florida residents and tourists ride bicycles and share our roadways each year. He also added wording to emphasize the need for promoting safety and awareness that our roadways are a shared use. There was a brief discussion about having BPAC and local bike club representation at the board meeting for the reading of the resolution, and Mr. Mayne confirmed that he planned to attend. Mr. Kibbey suggested that in light of recent editorials regarding the surplus, perhaps a well worded request for additional funding might be appropriate. The resolution will be on the April 4th Board of County Commissioners agenda. **Mr. Shelor made a motion to adopt the language in the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Connor. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item #5c: *Road Resurfacing

The meeting packet included the County's road resurfacing plan for this fiscal year for: County Wide Local Streets, County Wide Arterials & Collectors, and Lehigh Acres Local Streets, Phase I and Phase II. Staff had

reviewed the lists and made recommendations. The Utilities department was asked to coordinate on water and sewer; LeeTran requested to upgrade bus stops whenever possible. No action will be taken for Local Streets except for putting in sidewalks that are on the BPAC list. No action on Arterial/Collectors with the exception of Corkscrew Road, Country Lakes Drive, Tice Street and Buckingham Road where the traffic engineering division will be asked to determine if share the road signs are appropriate. If, as a result, any roads need to be widened, it would need to be added as a separate CIP project. Mr. Connor asked staff if all of the roads listed would be milled and resurfaced by the end of this fiscal year since it seemed like a lot. Staff confirmed that was the case, however, on closer examination many of the segments were fairly small, and some may have already been done which wasn't distinguished on the list. Mr. Kibbey noticed that there were no resurfacing projects in south Fort Myers, other than Corkscrew, and there was a brief discussion about the San Carlos area in particular and the pavement condition index and pot hole ratings in general. The committee questioned staff on what motion was needed since this was an action item. Mr. Wagley said that past practice has been for BPAC to evaluate staff recommendation. Mr. Wagley reviewed the recommendations which were to take no action on local roads, perform a share the road study on the roads mentioned above and have County staff look at Arterials and Collectors to see if anything should be in the CIP. Mr. Getch said the purpose for bringing the list here was to provide the committee the opportunity of adding any bike/ped retrofits or paved shoulders to the BPAC list. No motion was made and no action was taken.

Agenda Item #5d: *LDC Amendments

Mr. Wagley reviewed the summary included with the LDC amendments which outlined the Board of County Commissioners direction to staff concerning Lee Plan and LDC Amendments, and provided an overview of the growth management amendments. A link to the entire packet of amendments was sent to the committee before the meeting. Mr. Wagley reviewed the **Chapter 10 (Sec 10-256)** summary and amendments specific to bikeways and pedestrian ways. Additional requirements have been added for urban and suburban areas, including industrial areas for wider sidewalks; increased requirements for developers to build sidewalks on both sides of privately maintained streets within residential and non-residential subdivisions; added construction standards, cross-section and roadway design criteria, and more. The Executive Regulatory Oversight Committee (EROC) and Land Development Code Advisory Committee (LDCAC) have reviewed the amendments. The LDCAC in particular recommended numerous changes, therefore the version in front of BPAC was not the final version. The amendments have been sent out for peer review and later this month will go to the Local Planning Agency (LPA) for review.

Staff said the amendments strengthen the overall sidewalk requirements for developers but a developer can still ask for deviations or waivers through the zoning process, or pursue the fee in lieu option. The Committee wished to see the process for waivers made more difficult and discussion followed. The Committee was interested to know how many deviations have been allowed over the last 10 years and Mr. Getch agreed to research that and provide that number at the next meeting.

Mr. Shelor asked how much of the complete streets recommendations, if any, had been incorporated into the amendments. Mr. Getch responded that much of the bike/ped recommendations were there, but the emphasis on sustainability has shifted. Map3D, included in the meeting material, took the BPAC recommendations from a 2013 workshop and combined the existing and proposed facilities on the one map for planning purposes. Staff asked that the Committee thoroughly review the amendments and map and send any comments, suggestions and recommendations to Mr. Getch or Mr. Wagley to be forwarded on to the appropriate staff for inclusion with the amendments as they go through upcoming committee and LPA meetings.

Agenda Item #5e: Tiger V Grant Update (Ron Gogoi): Mr. Gogoi said that the letters for maintenance for the Wayfinding signs have been sent out to all government agencies. All the local governments are expected to sign

the agreements in April. He estimated the time to fabricate and install the signs should be about four months. Mr. David Murphy asked if the other jurisdictions all agreed to maintain the signs including those on state roads within their communities. Mr. Gogoi said there was still some discussion going on. Mr. Murphy said that following discussions with County Administration, the County was agreeable to maintaining signs within unincorporated Lee County including state highways, but not incorporated areas like the City of Fort Myers, Bonita and Estero.

Agenda Item #6, Member Comments:

Mr. Shelor referred to Map 3D and asked about Abel Canal which didn't appear to be shown. Mr. Wagley said Abel Canal is shown on Map 22 which was not included in the meeting packet but was part of the larger amendment package.

Mr. LaValla asked how many BPAC projects were done last year. This was a topic discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Murphy reiterated that additional personnel has been hired and other improvements have been made in order to move projects along quicker. Mr. LaValla pointed out that the higher ranked projects are big dollar projects and suggested instead doing more of the smaller, less costly projects that are good for the community and do more for less money.

Agenda Item #7, Staff Comments: None

Agenda Item #8, Upcoming meeting agenda items:

Lee County Development Services presentation

Agenda Item #9, Adjournment:

Mr. Mayne adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 from 3 to 5 p.m.



BPAC Chairman

4/19/17

Date



BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

4/19/17

Date

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Sign In Sheet

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Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Sign In Sheet

Signature	Name	Representing	Phone/Cell	Email Address
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