

LEE COUNTY  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES  
February 16, 2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Al Giacalone, Chair, Affordable Housing, At Large  
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large  
Damon Shelor, District 5  
Eric Spivey, Bike Industry Representative, at Large

Dave Wheaton, At Large  
T. Patrick Connor, District 2  
Jeremie Chastain, District 1  
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community, At Large

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jessica Marcolini, District 3  
Nora Demers, At Large

**STAFF**

David Wagley, LC DCD  
Tom Marquardt, Lee DOT  
Debbie Carpenter, LC DCD  
Jillian Scholler, LCDOT

Allan Makau, LCU  
Jorge Puente, LeeTran  
Farhan Butt, LC DCD  
Ashley Koza, LC Facilities

**GUESTS**

Jacob Rehm, Kimley-Horn  
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO  
See Attached Sign-In Sheet

**Agenda Item #1, \*Call to Order, Introductions and Review of Agenda:** Mr. Al Giacalone anticipated he would be late to the meeting and asked that Ms. Jane Bowser chair the meeting in his absence. Ms. Bowser called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Admin East Building at 2201 Second Street, Fort Myers, Room 118. Introductions were made. A review of the agenda followed. **A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Eric Spivey, seconded by Mr. Dave Wheaton. Ms. Bowser called the motion; the agenda was approved as written.**

**Agenda Item #2: \*Approval of the November 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Spivey made a motion to approve the November minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Giacalone. Ms. Bowser called the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Giacalone took over the duties of Chair and called for an election of officers.

**Ms. Bowser nominated Mr. Wheaton for chair. Seconded by Mr. Pat Connor.**

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Giacalone called for a vote. **The vote was unanimous and Mr. Wheaton was elected as Chair.**

**Ms. Bowser nominated Mr. Spivey for Vice-Chair. Mr. Wheaton seconded.**

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Giacalone called for a vote. **The vote was unanimous and Mr. Spivey was elected as Vice-Chair.**

**Mr. Wheaton appointed Ms. Bowser as secretary for 2022-2023.**

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

Sue McMillan spoke on behalf of a continuous sidewalk on Pine Ridge Road.

Romain Payant spoke on behalf of a sidewalk on Coon Road in North Fort Myers. This request is scheduled as a presentation later on this agenda.

John Kotke of Royal Palm Village spoke on behalf of a sidewalk along Old Gladiolus. This is already on the BPAC list at #37.

On behalf of “Cathy” from Lehigh Acres, Mr. David Wagley read an email to the Committee. He summarized the request which was for a connection from Sunshine Blvd. to Harns Marsh Elementary Middle School on 25<sup>th</sup> St. W. and said the project was already on the BPAC list at line #106.

Mr. Giacalone thanked all the speakers.

*(The first presenter had photos that needed to be downloaded, therefore to avoid delay, Mr. Giacalone suggested that Item 4(b) be heard first)*

### **Agenda Item #4(b) Sidewalk Construction in Pine Manor through Federal Funding**

Ms. Ashley Koza introduced herself as the Lee County Facilities’ project manager for this sidewalk project in Pine Manor. The project started in June of last year and should be completed in May 2022. She reviewed the limits of the project saying that the project focuses on sidewalks, but also includes drainage adjustments, earthwork, paving, signing and marking and bus stops.

Mr. Steve Jansen asked about Palm Avenue, between US41 and First Street, saying there was no sidewalk on the north side, but a lot of pedestrians walking there; he asked if that block could be added to this project. Ms. Koza said she could take the information back, but she was not sure if it could be included in this grant, and she noted that Mr. Wagley had brought that section to her attention as well. Mr. Wheaton asked about the funding and Mr. Wagley stated the funding was a HUD grant, a Community Development Block Grant, generally referred to as CDBG. There are six sections of the county that qualify for these grants, the funds for which can be used for community improvement services. Human Services facilitates these grants and then the Facilities Construction and Management oversees the design and construction. The Lee Tran representative said that the area is ridership heavy and 3 or 4 bus stops had been planned. Mr. Jacob Rehm, Kimley Horn, the consultant that did the design, reviewed the construction to date which included the bus stops, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue which are almost completed, and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue under construction. The project includes a connection to Hunter Park and a small area of sidewalk in Page Park. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue are not included and will remain unconstructed. Ms. Koza said Human Services may look at these streets but it will be dependent on budgets as to when they might get done. Mr. Wagley confirmed that none of these streets had gone through BPAC.

### **Agenda Item #4(a): Coon Road Sidewalk Request**

Romain Payant referred to his photos, pointing out an area approximately 3/4 of a mile in length from Donald Road to Butler Road. The photo showed a worn path in the grass along the side of the road. There is heavy foot traffic including children walking to, and waiting for, school buses. There is a sidewalk from Bayshore Road to Donald. Mr. Wagley reported that Bay Colony has approved plans to construct a sidewalk for a portion of that Donald Road area, which Mr. and Mrs. Payant were not aware. Mr. Wagley suggested that if there were any maintenance issues, that residents contact DOT and submit an RFA (Request for Action) and DOT will take care of any problems such as with the shoulders or the asphalt.

### **Agenda Item #4 (c) Grant Application and Support Letter**

Mr. Wagley reminded the Committee that at the October meeting, staff had recommended taking Daniels Parkway off the BPAC list but the committee recommended placing it on hold, and it is currently #138 on the list. There are no development orders under review for that area. The opportunity came up to apply for a grant

for funding through the MPO. The project is near the entrance to Gateway and includes about 1.3 mile of path that needs to be constructed. The deadline to submit the grant is coming up. A letter of support from the BPAC would be useful. The Gateway Community and Sheriff's office have already submitted their letters of support. There was a sample letter based on wording used in the past included in the BPAC package for review. It will need to be submitted before the next BPAC meeting.

Mr. Spivey was concerned about sidewalks being destroyed by heavy construction vehicles. Mr. Wagley said the design standard is such that sidewalks are designed to withstand heavy truck traffic but should damage occur the company would have indemnified the county for damages.

Mr Giacalone suggested a two part motion. First would be to take the Daniels Parkway at line #138 off of hold and place it back on the BPAC list. Following that, if appropriate, make a motion to let Dave Wheaton work with Mr. Wagley on the letter and allow him to sign the letter of support.

**Mr. Shelor made a motion to take Daniels Parkway at Line #138 off hold and place it back on the BPAC list. Seconded by Mr. Spivey. Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Giacalone called the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Patrick Connor made a motion to have Mr. Wheaton work with Mr. Wagley on the letter of support and to sign the finalized letter. Mr. Shelor seconded. Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Giacalone called the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item #5(a): MPO Update**

Mr. Gogoi reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Countywide Bicycle Facility Map saying it was a long time coming. Yet to be completed is the second page which will be a pull out map with more information on it. In the meantime the map has been sent out to different agencies to post if they wish to do so before getting the second page. He reviewed the legend and the color coding. Mr. Connor asked if trails were paved and Mr. Gogoi confirmed they were.

He went over the Fatalities & Injuries data from 2018 - 2022

Mr. Spivey asked what was being done to educate motorists concerning crosswalks. As a bicyclist, he stops for pedestrians in crosswalks but the vehicles behind him aren't prepared to stop. Mr. Jansen responded that there is no program to educate drivers and that it is an enforcement issue. Mr. Wagley said there is an educational effort that will be going on in conjunction with Pedestrian crossings that will be going in from US41 to Winkler. In conjunction with that FDOT will be doing a lot of campaigning on how to watch and stop for pedestrians. Ms. Jillian Scholler, LCDOT, said that she could bring up the issue at the Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting this month to see if DOT has any resources to help – whether something can be initiated, or if there is something that is being done currently.

There was a discussion about road safety audits that are being done for state road projects. Mr. Jansen suggested rebuilding the right turns. He suggested looking at this as a safe road approach.

Mr. Gogoi outlined some of the options that FDOT may be doing in the future. After attending an FDOT seminar just today, he went over changes that have been made to the Florida Safety Manual. He says they have added 3 items in one chapter with projects that deal with resurfacing, or any kind of restoration. They are going to spend money on bike/ped facilities but they are not going to build new sidewalks unless there are gaps, or they may do some work related to repairs or add Pedestrian lights at intersections but they can no longer spend most of the money for resurfacing.

Mr. Wheaton asked about the map that Mr. Gogoi referred to earlier. It was decided that the county was going to provide the link to the MPO website so the latest version will be available. Mr. Wheaton stated he heard that more questions related to bicycles and pedestrians had been approved to be added to the drivers' license test, but could not confirm whether that had been done.

**Agenda Item #6: Member Comments**

Mr. Jansen asked about a spreadsheet that FDOT created a couple years ago about improvements to be made at traffic signals, such as pedestrian buttons, crosswalks, some painting. He asked if that was being kept up to date. Mr. Gogoi said the MPO had created that spreadsheet and it is used to determine needs when working with FDOT. More discussion followed.

Mr. Shelor reinforced the point that enforcement is key.

Mr. Giacalone commented that he sees the problem as a two-way street. It's not just automobiles that are always at fault.

**Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments**

Mr. Wagley reported that as he had been asked at the last meeting, he checked about adding the prioritization checklist to the website. He was advised against it because it is an administrative function, not something the public would normally have a need for; however if they should ask for it, that would provide an opportunity for Mr. Wagley to explain it in detail.

He also commented that on the Committee's recommendation, the Commissioners generally declare May as Bike Month and that the timelines are such that a motion would be needed at the next meeting. Mr. Giacalone cautioned the group that if, for whatever reason, there was no April meeting that it would be an issue.

Mr. Wagley suggested amending the current agenda to make the motion

Mr. Giacalone suggested **5(b)** be added.

**Mr. Spivey a motion to amend the agenda to add item 5(b) as Bike Month. Mr. Connor seconded. Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item #5(b): Bike Month Resolution**

**Mr. Shelor made a motion to ask the Commissioners to declare May as Bike Month, seconded by Mr. Spivey.**

Mr. Wheaton asked about the content of the resolution and whether it is repeated year to year. Mr. Wagley said he uses the dates provided by the America Bicycle League for the days they declare for Bike Month. Typically the Commission chair asks the BPAC Chair to speak and recognizes committee members in the audience.

**Mr. Giacalone called the motion. It passed unanimously.**

There was a brief discussion concerning Mr. Giacalone's plans to move out of the area in which case he felt it appropriate to resign from the committee; possibly a couple months from now.

Mr. Jorge Puente, LeeTran reviewed upcoming changes to several of the bus & tram routes in April. In November the Rosa Parks station will be finished; that will impact all the routes serving Fort Myers downtown and north. Mr. Wagley asked about the change to Route 50 which serves the airport. Mr. Puentes said the changes were related to schedule re-timing. The focus at this time is the Bonita Springs Mobility on Demand, an Uber-type service, also doing this in Lehigh Acres with plans to add this service to North Fort Myers or in the Cape Coral area. The goal is to be lean, efficient and effective.

**Agenda Item #8: Other Government Entity Comments**

Mr. Gogoi commented that there will be an open house meeting on March 2 at Veterans Park, from 5 to 7 regarding the Abel Able Canal in Lehigh. Mr. Wagley said Parks and Recreational is overseeing the project, a 5 miles path along Able Canal. Mr Shelor corrected Mr. Wagley saying the project was intended to start at the trail head park on Joel. Mr Wagley offered to invite someone from Parks and Rec to talk about the project. Construction will start next year.

**Agenda Item #9: Upcoming meeting items**

Next meeting is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Giacalone said the agenda would include the Coon Road Sidewalk request heard today, and possibly a presentation by Parks and Rec.

Mr. Wagley said he had 2 citizen requests: one for Iona Road and the other for Prather Road, near Keenan and McGregor Blvd. near College Parkway. This is project #121 on the BPAC list and they are requesting that the limits be extended.


**Agenda Item #10: Adjournment**


Mr. Giacalone adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901, First Floor Conference Room 1B.

  
BPAC Chairman

  
Date

  
BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

  
Date