

LEE COUNTY  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Wheaton, Chair, At Large  
Jessica Marcolini, District 3  
Damon Shelor, District 5  
Eric Spivey, Vice Chair, Bike Industry Representative, at Large

Al Giacalone, Affordable Housing, At Large  
T. Patrick Connor, District 2

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jeremie Chastain, District 1  
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community, At Large  
Nora Demers, At Large  
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large

**STAFF**

Jason Lamey, Parks and Rec  
David Wagley, LC DCD  
Jorge Puente, LeeTran  
Debbie Carpenter, LC DCD

Tom Marquardt, Lee DOT  
Farhan Butt, LC DCD  
Jillian Scholler, Lee DOT

**GUESTS**

Patty Huff, Adventure Cycling  
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO  
Kimberly Crouse, Iona Rd

Tut Garner, Yacht Club Colony  
Jenna Baum, McGregor Isles

**Agenda Item #1, \*Call to Order, Introductions and Review of Agenda:** Mr. David Wheaton called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m in the Community Development/Public Works building, 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, First Floor Conference Room 1B. Introductions were made. A review of the agenda followed. **A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Al Giacalone, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. Mr. Wheaton called the motion; the agenda was approved as written.**

**Agenda Item #2: \*Approval of the February 16, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Spivey made a motion to approve the February minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Giacalone. Mr. Wheaton called the motion and it passed unanimously.**

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

Mr. Tut Garner of the Yacht Club Colony, off Bayshore and Donald Road spoke on behalf of the shared use path from Coon Road to Club House Rd. He mentioned it has been on the list for several years but wanted to stress the continued need.

**Agenda Item #4(a) Iona Rd from Copra Ln to Intercoastal Ct Sidewalk Request**

Ms. Kimberly Crouse provided two photos showing the lack of shoulders, a drainage ditch and a blind corner in the area where she and her children have to walk. She explained that she walks from her house along the left side where there are no shoulders, then, because there is a drainage ditch along the other side, crosses the road at the blind corner in order to get to the safest place to walk. The drainage ditch fills up with water which makes the crossing point at the blind corner the best option, but the traffic doesn't slow down for that corner. This is an older neighborhood but there is redevelopment going on in the area which has created more traffic. Mr. Spivey asked if there was a school in the area; Mr. Wagley said there might be one at the Catholic Church. Currently there is a sidewalk request from Intercoastal to Anchorage Bay on the BPAC list so his

recommendation would be to combine the two requests. The distance of this request is about 1 /4 of a mile. Mr. Giacalone pointed out that the sidewalk request on the list is Row #132. The current request would be to extend the sidewalk farther to the west and south.

**Agenda Item #4(b): Prather Dr from W of Baker Ct to Adele Ct Sidewalk Request**

Ms. Jenna Baum introduced herself as VP of the Board of the McGregor Isles Community. McGregor Isles is 2 blocks north of the Cape Coral bridge on McGregor Blvd. She said it is a very active community that has been around since 1960. She reviewed a Powerpoint, pointed out Prather Drive and the area she would like to see a sidewalk, which she estimated to be a distance of about 1 /4 of a mile. Prather Drive is a straight stretch of road with a 30 mph speed limit. Ms. Baum also said that it is heavily traveled by cars, construction and delivery vehicles which creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians, bikers and runners. According to the plat, there is a 20 foot right-of-way for a drainage easement along the left side of Prather Drive that could accommodate both the drainage ditch and a sidewalk. Mr. Wagley said there is a project on the BPAC list (#122) for a sidewalk along Keenan Drive to McGregor then on Prather from Kennan to Adele. His recommendation would be to add this to the original request.

Mr Wheaton thanked the presenters. Both cases will be discussed and a decision made next month.

Further discussion followed regarding the point scoring system, the procedure for moving a project from the BPAC list to the CIP list and the prioritization procedure. The CIP List is a 5 year planning tool, when funded projects go on the list starting from design to construction. Mr. Wheaton suggested checking with DOT about any resurfacing plans for the area. Mr. Spivey suggested following up with letters and communications to make the communities concerns known.

**Agenda Item #4 (c) Proposed US Bike Route 15 Update**

Ms. Patty Huff thanked the committee for inviting her to provide an update on the US Bike Route 15. These routes are intended for long distance bike riders. The routes are along current roads (not building any trails or making changes to infrastructure) and for those biking across the country or across the state, provides better, safer, more beautiful routes when going through particular areas. She reviewed a powerpoint which included current statistics of the national network along with the Florida network (USBR 1 and USBR 90) and the ongoing efforts to extend USBR 15. She pointed out the web link to a map that is updated as changes occur. She reviewed the jurisdictional approvals to date and those that are in progress, and the benefits of the USBR designation. Mr. Ron Gogoi, MPO, said that Bonita Springs had adopted their resolution, Polk County MPO already adopted the designation and is working with the County to get their resolution of support; the Heartland MPO has also adopted their route.

**Agenda Item #4 (d) Able Canal Path Project Update**

Mr. Jason Lamey of Parks and Rec, updated the committee on the Able Canal Greenway, a decade in the making. The project is a 12 foot wide shared use pathway along 6 miles of the Able Canal, starting from Harns Marsh to Joel Blvd. The path will connect with the pathway through Linear Park, as well as Lehigh Park and Trailhead Park and an elementary school, and will have amenities such as landscaping and directional signs. It is being coordinated through 4 agencies: Lee County MPO, FDOT, LMSID and Lee County Parks and Rec will oversee maintenance after it is built. He said Harns Marsh will serve as one of the trailheads. Most notable will be a 265 foot long concrete bridge to cover another canal. There is an eagles nest in the area and staff is working to remain in compliance. Plans are 60% done, he expects 90% plans will be done by April or May and 100% plans done by September. The plan is to start construction by the end of 2023. There was a brief discussion about the public meeting, signs and the fact that no right-of-way had to be acquired.

**Agenda Item #4 (e)\* Coon Rd from Butler Rd to Donald Rd.**

**Mr. Spivey made a motion to add the Coon Road from Butler Rd to Donald Rd. to the BPAC List. Mr. Connor seconded.**

Mr. Wagley said this connects with Donald Road which is already on the list, goes to Butler Road, then south of

the corner is a non-county maintained roadway. Mr. Connor asked how this would impact the current project. Mr. Wagley said this project scored about 40 points and there is little in the area that would raise the point score. He anticipated it would be Row #118 or #119 on the list.

Mr Giacalone asked about the sidewalk that the Bay Colony project would be constructing from Donald Road along the frontage of their project and where it was in relation to this request. It appeared that this request would be about 1 /4 of a mile in length.

**Mr. Wheaton called the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #5(a): May is Bike Month Resolution**

There was a brief discussion concerning whether the Resolution was approved at last month's meeting. A review of the minutes confirmed that a motion was made to ask the Commissioners to declare May as Bike Month and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Wagley said he would confirm when the Resolution would be read and let the Committee know the date and details. County Admin has requested the names of the committee members that would attend the meeting. Mr. Spivey and Mr. Wheaton said they would attend.

**Agenda Item #5(b): MPO Update - none**

**Agenda Item #6: Member Comments**

Several committee members expressed gratitude to the citizens for coming in to speak of their community's issues.

**Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments**

As discussed at the last meeting, BPAC had prepared a letter of support for Lee DOT's grant application for an 8' wide concrete path from Corporate Lakes Dr to SR82, including 2 gaps that need to be completed. Mr. Wagley thanked Mr. Wheaton for his help in preparing the letter to submit with the grant application. A copy of the letter was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Lamey had additional comments about the Able Canal project mainly addressing Lee DOT staff. When the pathway comes to a major roadway, those points are going to be areas where the maintenance vehicles come into the pathway for maintenance purposes. His question was about the preferred treatment for keeping vehicles that are not county vehicles off the pathway while still making it safe for people biking and walking. DOT responded that a fence of some kind that Parks & Rec staff would have access to would be an option, but that question and others could be addressed in the meeting that DOT & Parks and Rec have scheduled.

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

Mr. Jorge Puente of LeeTran reviewed the changes he mentioned at the last meeting which is a service change to the bus & tram routes on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Bonita Mobility on Demand (MOD) has been running since February and has been doing well. It uses the Uber app and is available not only to regular transit riders, but to others that are not usually transit riders. He distributed a leaflet with Uber setup instructions. In November there will be more route changes when the Rosa Parks station is finished. Also looking at November or April to start the Lehigh MOD. He pointed out the area where the new Lehigh Transfer station will be located.

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

Next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022 and will be held at 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901, First Floor Conference Room 1B.

**Agenda Item #10: Adjournment**

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

CSaillW Hunt  
BPAC Chairman

4/20/22  
Date

Jane Bayne  
BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

4-20-22  
Date